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TAMIL NADU STATE

TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Volume - II

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CHAPTER-7

COMMUNICATIONS

Tirunelveli district which was traditionally known as Thenpandinadu is in an ideal geographical position which powerfully influenced its developing trade and cultural contacts with the ancient kingdoms that surrounded it. The district commands the entry to the Southern part of Kerala State through the Aramboly Pass in Kanniyakumari district. The open sea board on the East facilitated its trade with Sri Lanka and Far East. European traders came to the ports of this district lured by the lucarative trade in Pearls and Chanks. The famous Benaras - Rameswaram - Kanniyakumari pilgrim route passed through this district. Thus from time immemorial the district has been in the highways of trade and commerce.

The twin towns, Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai are located at the centre of the district. All outlying parts of the district are almost equi-distant from this town and the roads that radiate from this place connect important centres like Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Kovilpatti, Sankarankoil, Thoothukkudi, Tiruchendur, Nanguneri and Nagercoil. But the soil conditions are not condusive for the maintenance of roads in good repair. The severe drought for nine months in a year and high winds during summer months cause extensive damages to the roads which incidentally increases the cost of the maintenance. The popular narrow tyred country carts and the deep ruts they formed on the road still further added to the cost of maintenance.

Though road and road transport were comparatively undeveloped during the reigns of Nayaks of Madurai, especially the Nayaks did not evince keen interest in the development of road system in the country, despite they diverted their abundant treasures for errecting temples and mahals. It was left to the Queen Mangammal (1683-1706) the widow of Chokkanatha Nayak of Madurai, to draw of plans for a number of roads to connect different centres of her domain. Traditions say that this ardent desire of the Queen who construct roads sprang from a very interesting incident. It is said that one day Queen Mangammal put betelnut into her mouth with her left hand and the Brahmin Priest who noticed it to be a serious infringement of religious injunctions. The Queen then decided that roads with avenue trees, where passers-by can rest in the shade during the fierce heat of the day may be an atonement for the misdeed.

These roads were lined by trees on either side. Many miles of such avenues, or salais as they were locally known, are still extant in this district and they go by the name *Mangammal Salai*.[1] But the roads at that period were unsafe for travel even during day time. Apart from the menace of highway robbers, wild beasts like tigers, strayed into the roads from nearby forests. A Jesuit letter of 1700 A.D states that in Tirunelveli district,

tigers were found in large numbers and that no inhabitant of any village dared to move outside his doors after sunset. Watch was kept in every village and huge fires were lit to keep the beast at a safe distance. Number of people had disappeared *who had without doubt being seized and devoured in lonely places by these denizens of the jungle.*[2]

There is one such *salai* which occasionally breaks connecting Tirunelveli with Srivilliputhur (now in Virudhunagar district). Another *salai* runs along the side of the modern road from Cheranmahadevi to Kalakad (the ancient counterpart of the present National Highways) and then from Alwarkurichi to Sivasailam ; the old route from Tirunelveli through Vaipar to Rameshwaram was one such *salai* (and traces of it may be still seen at frequent intervals near the line of the modern road to Rameshwaram - Tirunelveli - Aruppukkottai - Rameshwaram).[3]

The Poligars who ruled the district under the auspices of the Nayaks who were under the authority of the Nawabs (1529-1802) did not spend any money on public works, not to mention roads. It was a continuous period of strife; strife among themselves and strife against the Paramount.

Power, whatever Nayaks, Nawabs or the British which left them, little breathing time to engage in peaceful pursuits like road building and development of communications. When the East India Company became the rulers of the district in 1801, there were no roads fit for vehicular traffic. The old routes were in a neglected state and were practically useless. The problem was not only of maintenance but of construction. As a measure to consolidate their gains, the East India Company took interest in the development of the means of communications. To begin with the East India Company had to rectify the misdeed of the Poligars who dispoiled all roads and means of communications for military reasons for facilitating attack and defence. When roads were scarce, few lengths of roads that allowed trade to pass through gave an opportunity to the Poligars to collect large revenues from the roads. Roads were laid connecting strategic places. A number of bridges and culverts were built over the river Nullahs. The Company also abolished the transit duties and facilitated free movements of commodities of trade. The large number of pack-bullocks which were used to transport goods were replaced by carts, at the advent of the Company rule.[4]

But all these new works, taking into account the amount of work that was warranted, were meagre. Till 1824, the money spent on the new works was only a few hundred rupees, which was spent in repairing the road from Palayamkottai to Kayalpattinam. Bulk of cotton and piece - goods from the inland markets were sent to the ports through this road. During this period the road from Palayamkottai to Kovilpatti was almost impassable where it wended through the black cotton soil. When the

Company's regimental carts went on such roads, they often got struck at such places and peons and labourers would be sent to extricate the vehicle from the swamp. During four months in a year, transport of fieldguns was out of question due to the rains and the subsequent worsening of the road conditions.[5]

In the year 1819, the territories of the East India Company in the Madras Presidency were divided into three divisions each under the charge of the Civil Engineer, for the purpose of improving communication facilities. Road construction in the whole Presidency was placed under the control of an *Inspector General of Civil Estimates* . This scheme may be considered the nucleus of the Maramath Department of the latter period. In 1825, the whole department was placed under the Board of Revenue. The post of Inspector General of Civil Estimates was abolished in 1836 and a Public Works Engineer - Secretary to the Board of Revenue was appointed. But the strain of work was increasingly felt by the Board and in 1838 the Presidency was divided into eight Maramath Divisions, each under the charge of a Civil Engineer. In 1845, the main lines of roads, known as the Imperial Roads were kept under the charge of a Civil Engineer and were transferred to the newly created Trunk Roads Department. This Department was placed under the Superintendent of Roads. The Civil Engineer's Work was restricted to designing, and planning projects. The actual execution of work was carried on by a separate establishment working under the orders of the Tahsildars, known as the *Revenue Maramath*. This department consisted of 12 Superintendents of Maramath or Maisteries of superior qualifications and a number of Taluk Maisteries worked under him.

The Engineering Department started in 1785 also had its jurisdiction over the roads and other means of communications in the Contonments. This system remained inforce till 1858 when the Department was abolished.[6] These three departments, the Maramath Department, the Board of Revenue and the Engineering Department of the Military, shared the work of improving and maintaining the communications of the Presidency until 1858.

The first attempt at improving the transport facilities in the district may be said to have made during the period from 1826 - 1830. During these years, a start was made with an average annual outlay of Rs.2300/-[7] The District Collectors utilising a small part of the revenue and with the aid of professional assistants maintained the roads of the district. A few years later, the government consulted the Collector of Tirunelveli on a proposal to levy a tax on carts or to set up toll-gates. The Collector was of the view that the roads were in an extremely bad condition and *toll would be an additional infliction and those whose duty or pursuits entail upon them the necessity of passing through the district.* Captain Cotton (who later became Sir.Arther) put forward a scheme by which the problem of communications

could be tackled. What he suggested was a scheme of cheap rail road system worked by beasts of burden, a system which had been tried in Madras for the purpose of bringing materials for the roads into the town of Madras. By this scheme Palayamkottai was to be linked with Madurai and a detailed plan for a network of 5000 miles for the whole Presidency had been worked out. As a result of the prohibitive cost the whole scheme was given up.

In the history of the Road Development in the district, the name of Captain Horsley deserves to be held in grateful rememberance. From 1841-1855 he was the District Engineer of Tirunelveli. He completed the system of road connecting Thoothukkudi with the Cotton Country.

The formation of the Trunk Road Department and its annual allotment of Rs.4 lakh did not in any way benefit the district. General permission was given to utilise the accumulated surplus temple funds for the development of roads. But such allotments were very inadequate to meet out the needs of the district. In 1855, the Collector was authorised to spend a few hundred rupees for the development of communication, from the money collected each year, by the sale in action of the right to collect reeds and grasses in tank and swamps. In 1856, Palayamkottai to Thoothukkudi road was laid utilising the allotment of Rs.67,000/- for the purpose. The progress of these new works was very slow and were not completed before six or seven years. The average expenditure on the roads was Rs.40,000. during the years, 1854 - 1864. The then Collector of the district A.Wedderburn wrote in the year 1865, *it is evident that almost everything has yet to be done in the matter of roads to give district a fair chance.*[8]

In 1850, the Court of Directors in England, realising the needs for public works, appointed a Public Works Commission in 1851. This Commission, after reviewing the working of the Maramath Department of the Board of Revenue, the Trunk Road Department and the Engineering Department, submitted its report in 1852. This Report brought to the notice of the Court of Directors, the benefits derived by the State from the systematic and judicious expenditure of public money in the promotion of public works and brought to light many abuses in the execution of works. In the light of these facts, the Court of Directors set up the Public Works Department in the year 1858.[9]

The Chief Engineer assisted by several District Engineers, was put incharge of the Department. But, however, it was felt that unless fresh taxation was resorted to, no material improvement can be effected in the means of communications. During 1857 disturbances, the department received meagre grants from the government. In 1866 the District Road Cess Act III was passed by which a cess not exceeding of half an anna in the rupee on the rent value of occupied land was imposed so as to form a

fund for the construction of and maintenance of district roads. The Local Funds Act of 1871 which repealed the District Road Cess Act 1866, transferred the Road Cess Funds raised by the 1866 Act to the local funds Boards and authorised the local bodies to levy a cess similar to the District Road Cess, but with a maximum of one anna in a rupee and introduced a system of tolls upon roads. Two thirds of the cess and the whole of the tolls were allotted for Road Development. But the Public Works Department continued to execute the works financed by these funds.

Later, the government began to make regular annual contributions to the Local Fund Boards as grants - in - aid. The year 1879-80 marked an another landmark in the history of Road Development as in that year the government transferred the work of maintenance and construction of roads from Public Works Department to the Local Fund Boards. These Boards then began to employ their own Engineering staff who were directly responsible to them. The Local Boards Act of 1884, which followed this measure brought about the creation of District and Taluk Boards. Being not satisfied with the maintenance of roads, by the Boards, the government decided to interfere and direct by an executive order that the Local bodies should spend not less than half the income from their Land Cess upon roads. But in practice, this order was also an ineffective one. So it was withdrawn in the year 1900 and the government began to grant to the local bodies 25 percent of their Land Cess for the improvement of roads in addition to the amount allotted to them from the Imperial Grants. To augment this, government began to sanction special grants for building bridges and for construction of roads. The Superintending Engineers of the Public Works Department were put in charge of the trunk roads and the Collectors were also made responsible for the maintenance of the second class roads. In the year 1930-31, the Motor Vehicles Tax Act was passed which abolished the tolls. The government paid compensation to the local bodies to the loss.[10]

In the later half of the 19th Century this district witnessed an all round increase in the construction of roads and bridges. In the year 1864, the Construction of Thoothukkudi-Palayamkottai road was started.[11] In the year 1866, a bridge across the river Tamiraparani was built on the Thoothukkudi - Palayamkottai road at a cost of Rs.18457/- [12] Old roads were also repaired and made stronger. Madurai - Aralvoimozhi High Road which cuts across the district was repaired in the same year.[13]

The dearth of efficient labour force to a large extent retarded the development of roads and means of communications during that period. Jutkas and bullock-carts were common needs of conveyance. The United Transport Company was conducting a daily transit service to Trivandrum from Tirunelveli and they used sprint bullock-carts. Bullock coaches were used on special occasions by wealthy people.

By 1915, the district came to possess 1302 k.m. of metalled roads. The best roaded parts of the district at this period was the Western Part of the Tenkasi taluk and worst parts were the teri or sand-dune Eastern Regions.

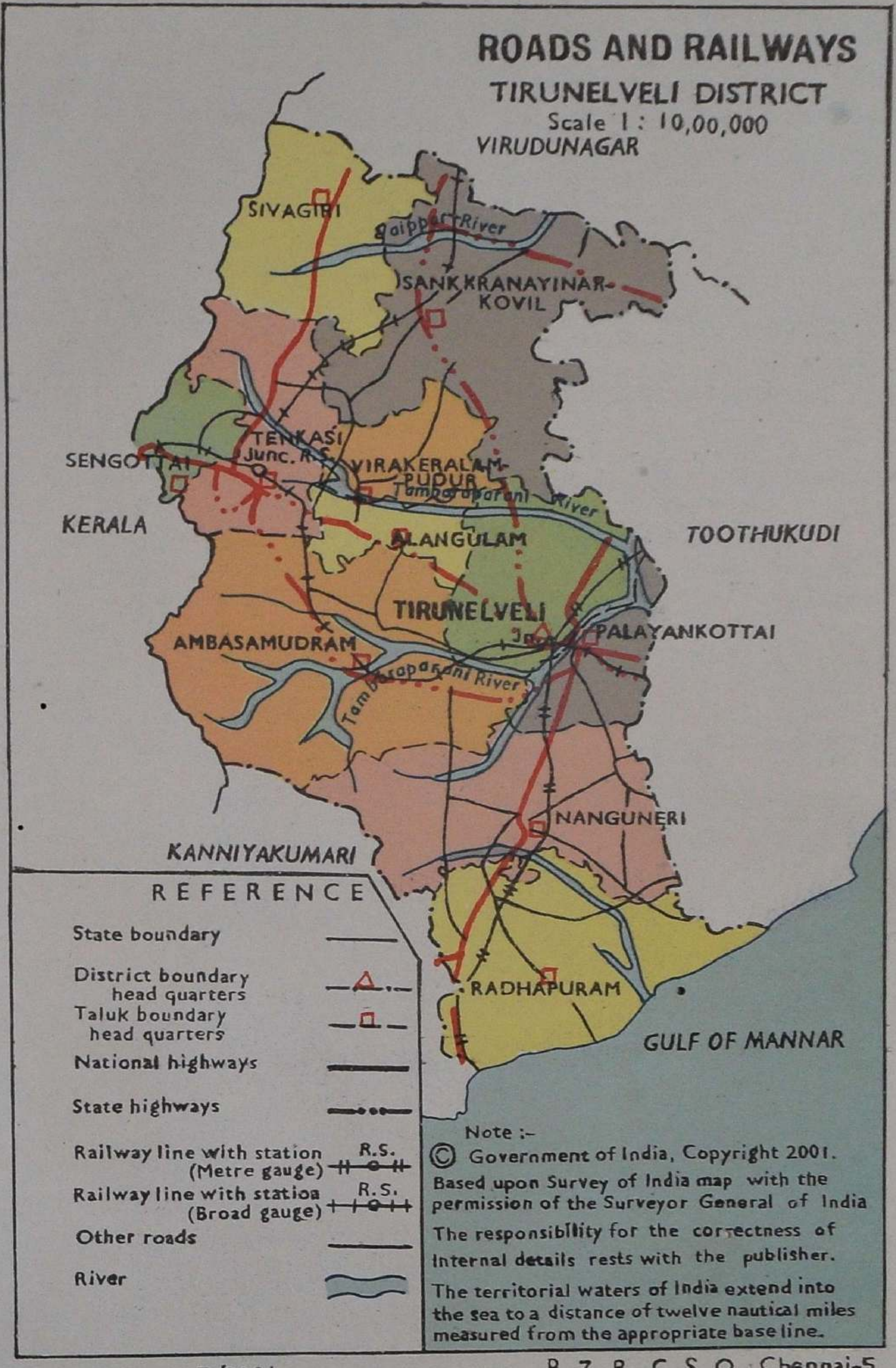
In 1935, A.Vipan, Special Engineer, Road Development, conducted a survey on roads of Madras Presidency and submitted his schemes. The area of the district in 1935 was 6904 sq. km. and was served by 1817.6 km. of road, out of this, 1220.8 km. were metalled, 368 km. were unmetalled. There were also 115.2 km. of trunk roads and 36 km. of second class roads. The government sanctioned an annual grant of Rs.48,100/- for trunk roads and Rs.55,626/- for second class roads. The Great Southern Trunk Road ran through the district and its length was 102 km. This road divided the district into two equal parts and connected with Madurai and erstwhile Ramanathapuram districts in the North and Kanniyakumari on the South. At the period of survey, the road from Tirunelveli to Nanguneri, which was a part of the Great Southern Trunk Road was in a state of bad condition. The second class roads were in a fair condition. The schemes for the road development for Madras Presidency stressed the need for the construction of bridges. It also suggested a number of new roads to be constructed which would altogether increase the road milage by 566.4 km. New roads were suggested for construction to the length of about 167 km. in the district.[14]

There were ten main roads in Tirunelveli taluk and upward of 20 short branches. The main lines were:

1.	Tirunelveli	To	Vaipar
2.	Tirunelveli	To	Rajapalayam
3.	Tirunelveli	To	Pottalputhur
4.	Tirunelveli	To	Srivaikuntam
5.	Palayamkottai	To	Vaipar
6.	Palayamkottai	To	Thoothukkudi
7.	Palayamkottai	To	Kovilpatti
8.	Palayamkottai	To	Travancore
9.	Palayamkottai	To	Ambasamudram
10.	Palayamkottai	To	Tenkasi

Most of these roads had two or more short branches of one to ten km.connecting important villages with main roads and formed a complete net work of communication; all were maintained by the Local Boards.

In Ambasamudram taluk the following principal Local Fund Board Roads were there;



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Map Reproduced as per the information furnished by the Indentor.

1. Palayamkottai to Tenkasi (via) Alankulam
2. Palayamkottai to Ambasamudram (via) Cheranmahadevi.
3. Tirunelveli to Pottalputhur
4. Ambasamudram to Tenkasi, and
5. Ambasamudram to Pattamadai.

Besides, there were small branches connecting large villages with the above roads.

In Tenkasi taluk the following roads were the principal roads.

1. Tenkasi to Palayamkottai
2. Tenkasi to Ambasamudram
3. Tenkasi to Madurai
4. Pavur to Surandai
5. Tenkasi to Veerakeralamputhur
6. Tenkasi to Courtallam
7. Tenkasi to Punblypatnam and Shencottah.

The roads in Sankarankoil taluk were;

1. Tirunelveli to Rajapalayam (via) Sankarankoil
2. Tenkasi (via) Vasudevanallur and Sivagiri to Madura Frontier.
3. Kalugumalai to Kovilpatti (constructed by the Ettayapuram Zamindar).

The roads kept up by the Nanguneri Taluk Local Fund Board were ;

1. Palayamkottai to Tirukkurungudi (via) Nanguneri
2. Cheranmahadevi to Travancore Frontier (via) Kalakad and Panagudi
3. Nanguneri to Kalakad.
4. Nanguneri to Edayankudi
5. Nanguneri to Valliyoor
6. Nanguneri to Moolaikaraipatti.
7. Nanguneri to Vizianagaram.

Besides, the cart tracks passable in dry weather were seen in almost every village.

In the year 1920, government assumed partial responsibility for the maintenance of Trunk Roads, and in the year 1929-30 when the central

government inaugurated the road development fund, the government directed that funds available for expenditure should be allotted by a full grant for works on trunk roads and a half grant for works on other classes of roads, the local bodies being required to find for the other half from their own resources.

The funds available with local bodies were limited, this being particularly more so, since the tolls were abolished ; and so in many cases half grant share for works on roads other than trunk roads was not forthcoming, and so important and urgently needed works could not be proceeded with. Government was chiefly concentrating on trunk roads, since they served as important inter-district and inter-provincial communications. Most of the trunk roads ran parallel to the Railway line and carried less traffic and served as feeders to the Railway Stations.

In order to improve the communication systems, the need for coordination in the matter of inter-district communications was felt apparently by the government. It was frequently stated that a district was interested in a particular road and had developed it up to a frontier, but full and proper use could not be made of it, as the neighbouring district was not equally interested and therefore did not carry out the necessary works to ensure through communication. In Tirunelveli district Thirumangalam to Srivilliputhur and thence to Courtallam and from Srivilliputthur to Sankarankoil roads were placed under this category.

These roads served as vital link from Courtallam to other parts of Tirunelveli district, the then Travancore State and Watrap. The District Authorities agreed to share the expenses of road improvement works.

Length of the roads and expenditure incurred on road maintenance in 1933-34 in the district was as follows :

Total length of all roads	-	1136 km.
Length of motorable roads	-	993 km.
Length of Railways	-	214 km.
Expenditure on roads	-	Rs. 423750 - 00
Expenditure on District Board Roads	-	Rs. 299827 - 00
Government grants	-	Rs. 123923 - 00

The surface of the motorable roads in the Presidency for the most part consisted of water bound macadam. Neither the roads maintained by the Public Works Department nor any navigable canal was there in the district in 1940's. The length of roads categorywise that existed during 1975 to 1980 is furnished in **Appendix - 1**

The district is well supplied with the materials for road construction. In the Western part of the district, granite is available in abundance. Towards the Centre and South - Eastern parts of the district quartz and gnesis are used in road construction according to their availability. In the black cotton areas, hard lime stones can be procurred. This stone is often used in combination with the gnesis which is obtained, at intervels throughout the district. The over ground quarries near Ambasamudram, yield dark green basalt noted for its extreme hardness. In Nanguneri taluk a fine variety of white granite and blue basalt are obtained. The soils of the district are generally divided between black and red series, the usual gradation occurring in the Easte and Central part of the district.

The total length of the government roads of different categories in the district as in 1996 were 2741 km. The break up is -

1.	State Highways	:	136 km.
2.	Major District Roads	:	837 km and
3.	Other District Roads	:	1768 km.

The Riding Surface of the roads is bituminous for 2738 km. and cement concrete is for 3 km. Out of 2741 km. 2428 km are single lane (3.75 metre width of riding surface) and 322 km are double lane and the remaining kilometre of State Highways is multilane. These roads connect the district head quarters Tirunelveli with entire parts of Tamil Nadu as well as Kerala State. These roads also connect the important tourist centres such as Courtallam, Papanasam and Manimuthar. The Highways and Rural Works Department attends patches, potholes and making up the berms under ordinary repair. The bituminous surface is renewed once in every six years subject to the availability of funds during that year. Based on the condition of the roads special repairs are done by doing one layer of water bound macadam and bituminous surface. At times of natural calamities, funds are provided by the government for repairing the damaged roads. Out of the 2741 km length of roads, 228.40 km in1990-91, 286.40 km. in 1991-92, 265.10 km. in 1992-93, 295.10 km. in 1993-94, 324.30 km in1994-95, and 182.71 km in 1995-96 of riding surface were renewed in the district.

Besides the State Government, the local bodies also maintain their own roads from their own funds to a length of about 2358.66 km. in the district. The length of roads maintained by the local bodies in the district are:

1.	Tirunelveli Corporation	:	264.58 km.
2.	Municipal Roads	:	211.00 km.
3.	Panchayat Unions	:	1481.50 km.

4. Panchayats : 261.90 km.

5. Forest Department : 110.00 km. and

6. Public Works Department (Roads to Dam Sites) : 29.69 km.

These roads are maintained by the respective local bodies ,such as Municipalities, Panchayat Unions , etc.)themselves. Generally, they are fairly in good condition and are useful for heavy traffic flow.

For the better maintenance of roads, schemes are sponsored both by State and Central Governments. State Planning Commission every year approves certain roads and bridge construction, and development schemes under part II scheme and are implemented by this department. Since 1990-91 till 1996, the following works were taken up and got completed. Six bridges and six culverts were constructed. About ten km. length of roads were widened and strengthened.

Under the Scheme of one single bridge for one Constituency nine bridges were completed in the district. Under the centrally sponsored Western Ghat Development Scheme, road improvement works are done. The roads works leading to foot of the Western Ghat i.e Vasudevanallur and Sivagiri are executed. About 2.85 km. has been improved since 1996 at a cost of Rs.15 lakhs.[15]

This department apart from roads and bridges maintenance, maintains seven Travellers' Bungalows . The Travellers' Bungalows are located at Ambasamudram, Sankarankoil, Vasudevanallur, Nanguneri, Valliyoor, Radhapuram and Thisayanvilai. The Annexes are at Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai, Tenkasi, Shencottah and Courtallam.

The total distance of roads, (categorywise) renewal of riding surface and bad stretches, bridges, culverts, etc., constructed since 1990-91 to 1995-96 are as follows:

Total Distance of Roads (Categorywise)

	Concrete Road	*Tar Road*	*Metal Road (in kms.)*	*Gravel or Earthern Road*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1. Govt. Roads				
a) State Highways	–	136	–	–
b) Major Dist. Roads	3	834	–	–
c) Other Dist. Roads	–	1768	–	–

2.	**Local Bodies**				
a)	Corporation Roads	–	264	–	–
b)	Municipal Roads	–	211	–	–
c)	Panchayat Union Roads	–	244	800	439
d)	Panchayat Roads	–	12	93	157
e)	Forest Roads	–	110	–	–
f)	P.W.D Roads	–	29	–	–

Renewal of Riding Surfaces and Bad Stretches

Achievements			*Year*			
Roads	*1990-91*	*91-92*	*92-93*	*93-94*	*94-95*	*95-96*
State Highways	21.50	27.10	36.80	38.70	39.30	24.80
Major District Roads	97.80	107.50	65.40	86.60	108.50	74.15
Other District Roads	109.60	126.40	70.08	5.60	98.40	61.16
Industrial	–	–	8.00	8.40	16.00	–
Non- Industrial	–	25.40	84.90	72.80	62.10	22.60
Total (in km.)	228.90	286.40	265.10	295.10	324.30	182.71
Bridges						
State Highways	–	–	1	–	–	1
Major District Roads	–	–	–	–	–	3
Other District Roads	–	–	–	–	–	1
Other Roads	–	5	–	–	–	7
Total	–	5	1	–	–	12
Culverts						
State Highways	–	–	–	–	–	3
Major District Roads	–	–	–	–	2	1
Other District Roads	–	–	–	–	4	3
Other Roads	–	–	–	–	–	–

Bridges

Most of the bridges in the district were constructed during the middle of the 19th century. Some bridges were constructed with the help of the funds raised by the local citizens. The bridge over the river Tamirabarani near Ambasamudram was constructed in 1841 at a cost of Rs.17275/- . The money was raised through local subscriptions. In 1852, a bridge over Chittar was built on Tirunelveli - Sankarankoil road by public subscription.

A very important bridge in the district is the one across the river Tamirabarani connecting Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai. The bridge has an interesting history behind it. A philanthropic citizen of Tirunelveli, Sulochana Mudaliar, who was holding the post of Naib Sherishtadar in Collectors' office at Tirunelveli during the 1840's financed the construction of the bridge. After being designed by Captain Faber, the design was executed by Lieut. Horsley, the District Engineer. This is an important bridge connecting the two big towns (i.e) Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai. The total length of the bridge is 760' with a width of 21'6". The cost was just over half a lakh of rupees which was considered moderate cost even at that period. Construction was over by November 1843 and a befitting ceremony marked the inauguration of the bridge. A large elephant was the first to cross the bridge. Then a regiment of Indian Infantry and a detachment of artillery followed. After it, came Sulochana Mudaliar, accompanied by Dougles,- the Judge, Thomas the Collector and Lieut.Horsley. Then followed the whole European Community of the town. The government's contribution to the work consisted of the services of the Engineers in charge, the labour of a hundred convicts and the stones from the dismandled fort of Palayamkottai for the formation of piers. The bridge had eight elliptical arches, each 60 feet long and in design resembled the old Waterloo Bridge over the river Thames in London. Its total length between the abutments is 760'. This bridge consisted of 60' arched span, had a roadway of 32' between kirbs with footpath 4'6" wide on either side.

In 1845, an obelisk was erected under the government orders on the Tirunelveli approach to the bridge, commemorating the philanthropic act of Sulochana Mudaliar. This was inadequate to cope with the heavy vehicles as well as pedestrian traffic between these two towns. As the condition of traffic was too much the necessity for widening the bridge and also for making provision for pedestrian path was keenly felt. Hence, the widening of the bridge was taken up in 1965 and was completed within thirteen months, three months ahead of schedule time for the completion.

The bridge was widened to 24'6" on the upstream side and the cushion on the old width of the bridge portion has also been relaid. The total width of the bridge between parapet is 50' i.e 40' for vehicles and 5'

Sulochana Mudaliar Bridge connecting Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai

on either side for pedestrian. The total cost of the construction was Rs.11 lakhs, and was opened for traffic on 10th January 1967.

A seven arched bridge was constructed by Horsley across the river Chittar at Gangaikondan in 1844. The cost of construction was borne by the then Zamindar of Ettayapuram. Another Bridge over the river Hariharanadhi, near Tenkasi, was also built in 1853 from the funds raised by way of public donations. Lieut. Horsley the then District Engineer from 1841-1855 (later he became the Chief Engineer of the Madras Presidency) was associated with almost every bridge construction of the district. In 1860, a small bridge across Nambiyar near Dalapathi Samudram was constructed and contract system was tried during construction for the first time.[16] On the 38.4 km. road from Palayamkottai to Thoothukkudi a bridge was constructed in 1866 at a cost of Rs.18457/-.[17] During the floods in 1869, extensive damage was caused to the bridge at Tirunelveli and Ambasamudram. Both the bridges were subsequently repaired in 1873. A bridge over the river Tamirabarani was built in 1891 at Vikramasingapuram by the Tirunelveli Mills (now Madura Fabrics - Coats Viella India Limited) for their own use. But eventually it was thrown open to the public also.Now an R.C.C. Bridge across the river Tamirabarani (5 spans each of 20 metres width) on the upstream side of existing steel girder bridge had been constructed in 1891 at a cost of Rs.65 lakhs. (The Madura Coats authorities had contributed 50 per cent of the estimated cost of the bridge).

In the first half of the 20th centuary, there was a lull in bridge construction activity and only maintenance work was carried out. During the first five year Plan Period, three bridges were constructed in the district. The biggest bridge was the one across the river Gatana, in Ambasamudram - Alangulam road. The other bridge was across the Nambiyar near Nanguneri and the third one was across the river Karamani near Manapadu. The cost of construction of these bridges was Rs.4.44 lakhs, 1.08 lakh and 2.05 lakhs, respectively.

At km.122/8 of Thoothukkudi-Tirunelveli-Shencottah-Quilon road, a (State Highways) single span bridge of three metres was constructed across the jungle sream in the year 1997 at a cost of Rs.7.8 lakhs. At km. 5/8 of Nanguneri-Eruvadi-Thirukarunkudi road a bridge of three span, each of eight metres across the river Nambiyar, inlieu of the existing causeway, had been constructed at a cost of Rs.35 lakh and opened for traffic in March 1998. The existing bridge at km.27/10 of Cheranmahadevi-Panagudi road had been widened which caused an expenditure of Rs.10 lakh and from March 1998, this widened stretch has been helping vehicular traffic in moving fast.

Tiruvalluvar Two Tier Bridge

The two tier over bridge, namely Thiruvalluvar Bridge at km. 53/4 of Thoothukkudi-Tirunelveli-Shencottah-Quilon road at Tirunelveli junction was constructed to avoid the railway line crossing. This bridge was opened for traffic in 1972. The total length of the bridge is 800 metres. This type of two tier bridge constructed in Tirunelveli, by the Highways Department is the first of its kind in India. This two tier over bridge consists of 25 spans of which 13 are of bow string arch, each with a width of 30.30 metres and 12 are single tier R.C.C. girder each having a width of 11.72 metres. The total cost of this bridge, including the cost of the land, and the cost of service roads worked out to Rs.84 lakhs.

During the Second and the Third Plan Periods, there was an increasing tempo in bridge building activity in the district. The following works were executed by the government.

	Place	*River*	*Cost (in lakh)*
1.	Melanatham	Tamiraparani	2.68
2.	Ettayapuram - Aruppukottai road	Vaippar	7.25
3.	Ambasamudram - Tenkasi road - Gateway	Tamiraparani	1.26
4.	Tirunelveli - Rajapalayam road - repair works	–	1.21
5.	Alwarkurichi - Sivasailam	Gatana	2.19
6.	Tenkasi - Madurai	Hanumanadhi	0.53
7.	Tirunelveli - Rajapalayam	Nitcheparnadhi	1.42
8.	Shencottai - Quilon	Gundar	1.05
9.	Ambai - Palayamkottai - Ambai road	Tamiraparani	5.92
10.	Aiyikudi - Nainanagaram	Hanumanadhi	0.51
11.	Ambai - Tenkasi road	Gatana	3.10
12.	Ambai - Tenkasi road Causeway	Ramanadhi	1.65
13.	Cheranmahadevi - construction of causeway on Cheranmahadevi river road	Tamiraparani	7.27

Tiruvalluvar Two Tier Bridge - Tirunelveli

Postal System

It is the communication means that, besides bridging the gap between continents, nations, countries, and people, serves as a media to understand each other, communicate the feelings, happennings, joy, sorrow, etc., The oldest means of communication of information might perhaps be through air, the carrier being homing pigeons. Coexistence of human message - bearers was also in use. This was, ofcourse, between a set of people at a time, as the carrier could fly or travel from one place to the other and *vice versa.* The system was, once, absolute right of the State only but now it is of the common people. Apart from the birds that carried message, human messengers were also in vogue though mainly restricted to personal usage.

Gradually, efforts were made to provide communication access to the public also. It was the Britishers, who, owing to necessity, took steps towards turning this into a public utility organisation. It was, thus, on July 24th 1837 that a public post was established and this system was called Imperial Post. Postage rates were levied in cash which varied with distance, the lowest rate being two annas for every hundred miles. For this purpose, copper tokens of the value of two annas were struck which were available for the payment of postage. The British Government thus assumed by law exclusive right of conveying post for a fixed rate and establish a public postal system. Even after the post office became public it was not treated as a special department requiring specialised technical administration. All kinds of people were placed in charge of the post office in the days of the Company. In Civil stations, the post office was placed in the charge of the Medical Officer and in Military stations the station staff, a Major or a Brigade or a Deputy Judge, Advocate, etc., and in some civil stations, it was handed over to the Magistrates. The result of this insufficient system was the high and varying rates of postage, want of compulsory stamping and the inadequacy of post offices and personnel. The Imperial Post had, thus, numerous defects in it. Absence of proper heads to control the department as the affairs were managed by the local Post Master General who were also Post Masters of Presidency towns while the administration of post offices in districts was left to the District Collectors.

A few main lines of runners who were responsible for the dawk connected the principal towns in the district with the head quarters. A small fee which was levied based on distance in cash was paid as postage with the letter intented for delivery at the post office. The Postman after delivery, brought back the signature of the addressee in a list. Addresses of all materials passing through the post office were recorded. The system was in vogue for almost 17 years.

The postal system that obtained prior to 1854, known as District Post, was mainly meant to carry official posts between the Collector and

the Magistrate and their subordinate offices. The Dawks were carried by peons and other servants belonging to the revenue establishments. The system was governed by different principle with that of the Imperial Post. Neither any receipt nor any separate charge appeared in accounts. The District Post also maintained a fund of its own. Where there was no regular post offices, the disrtrict post set up its office and levied a surcharge in addition to the postage paid to the regular post. Save this, no other financial connection existed between the two postal systems. The Collector of the district was authorised to utilise the money raised by the district post office for its improvement. The District Post Office was connected with the Taluk Post Offices which were located in the taluk headquarters. The Peons of the District Post Offices carried the dawks between these offices. The delivery into outlying villages was carried on by the Rural Delivery System which consisted of a staff of itinerating peons whose beats were so arranged that they should visit each village in the taluk once, twice, or thrice a week or daily, according to the importance of the village, its acessibility and the funds available. The District Post was under the administration of the Revenue Department.[18] These two systems coexisted until 1854 when they were finally merged together. These systems were however, found to be defective and inferior.

The inferiority of the postal system in India and the unsatisfactory manner in which the system was functioning, induced Lord Dalhousie, in 1850, to appoint a Commission to examine the postal system in India and to recommend changes towards improvement. The result of its deliberations was the Post Office Act of 1854 and the conversion of the Post office into an Imperial Department under a single head called the ***Director General***[19] and the Province was headed by a Post Master General. Therefore, the year 1854 is a landmark in the history of Postal System in India and it could best be called as the period which marked the commencement of the present postal system.[20] Then a uniform postage was levied irrespective of the distance and printed stamps were introduced. Uniform rates of postage of half anna and one anna were paid. In 1869, the class of Inspecting Post Masters and another class of Sub-Inspectors were created for visiting the post offices during 1864-69.

The Railway Mail Service was introduced in 1870.(it formed a separate branch under four Inspector Generals who had superintendants under the charge of several divisions. The System of Value Payable Post (VPP) was introduced in 1878 and that of Postal Insurance in 1878, Post cards were introduced in 1879, Introduction of Money Order in the year 1880 (Ist January 1880) and Postal Savings Bank in 1882 were the other notable features. Telegraphic money orders were introduced in 1884.

Parcel Post, well known as *Bhaugy Post* existed has been though in existence since long was officialised by the Post Office Act of 1884.[21]

The first step towards the administration of the Parcel Post was in 1871, when rates according to distance were abolished and a fixed rates of three annas for ten tolas was introduced. In 1854, the Indian Postal Organisation had a skeleton network with 701 post offices and a staff of 24500 to man the services which carried two and a half million letters along 52800 km. of runner lines.

The first Postal Act of 1854, was repealed several times each seeing delitions and additions and thus making several changes in the working of the system.

The post offices consisted of Head, Sub and Branch Offices. The head post offices were at the headquarters of the district and the accounts of the sub and branch offices were incorporated in those of the head office. Sub offices were in most important towns and the branch offices in the large villages. Most of the branch offices, were incharge of extra departmental men such as School Masters, Station Masters, Shopkeepers, Pensioners, etc., who performed postal duties in return for a small remuneration.[22]

Tirunelveli Postal Division

This division comprises of Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Nanguneri, and Radhapuram taluks of Tirunelveli district.The Kumarapuram branch post office, a village of Thovala taluk of Kanniyakumari division falls within the jurisdiction of this division.[23] The Tirunelveli Postal Division has been divided into three sub divisions which are Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, and Valliyoor. The Valliyoor sub division which has its headquarters at Valliyoor is under the control of the Sub Divisional Inspector, Palayamkottai and Tirunelveli sub divisions are under the control of the Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices having headquarters at Palayamkottai, and Tirunelveli respectively.

Tirunelveli division which was formed before Independence had Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Kovilpatti, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari within its jurisdiction.Thoothukkudi division was formed in 1959, Kanniyakumari in 1967, Kovilpatti division on 15th December in 1972. Ambasamudram Head Post Office and Sub Post Offices were transferred to Kovilpatti division with effect from 2nd February 1981.

The Tirunelveli division is headed by the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices who is assisted by two Higher Selection Grade I Post Masters,five Assistant Superintendents of Post Offices, three Higher Selection Grade II Post Masters, one Sub-Divisional Inspector, one Junior Engineer, Sub Post Masters, and Assistant Post Masters, two Public Relations Inspectors, four Accountants, two Savings bank Supervisors, 307 Postal Assistants, 15 Head Post Men / Sorting Post Men / Mail Overseer/ Cash Overseer, 134 Post Men, one Departmental Stamp

Vendor,43 Group D Officials, 2 Sweepers, 5 Drivers, 2 Mechanics / Cleaners, 2 Technicians / Wire man and 515 Extra Departmental employees.

Stamp Cancelling Machine has been provided to Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai Head offices for the impression of delivery stamp in all the letters received for delivery and also for defacing the stamps in the articles received for delivery.

Bradma Postal Electronic Weighing Machines have been supplied to Tirunelveli Head Post Office and Tirunelveli Town Post Office for weighing the articles. Two Multi Purpose Counter Machines one each at Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai Head Post Offices, are working to receive registered letters, parcels, V.P.letters, money orders, telephone bills, etc. Mail Motor Service was introduced for direct mail exchange from one post office to another. Speed Post Service for letters and Money Orders have been introduced in Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Tirunelveli town Head Post Offices.

Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) Unit was installed at Tirunelveli Head Post Office on 24 September 1997, linked to Madurai VSAT centre. Inward Money Orders payable in entire Tirunelveli district and outward Money Orders for Madras and beyond are transmitted through this unit. Utilising the ESMO channel, Hybrid Mail Service (E-Mail) has also been introduced here. Over a period of three months, in 1997, since its commissioning the ESMO unit, Tirunelveli received 5626 Money Orders as against 1204 sent outwards.

Two hundred and seventy five villages have no post offices since Independence. These villages are being served by the nearest branch post-offices/sub-post offices. There is no mobile post office in the district.

The Tirunelveli Division has nine departmental and 33 private franking machines. The number of post bags available in this division is 32, post boxes 178, business reply permits 5 and letter boxes 2469. In this district 52 bulk mailers are identified. Since April 1995 to March 1996, about 426 articles were booked and 538 speed posts were delivered. The Revenue realised from booking articles and the speed posts was Rs.2.4 lakhs.

Kovilpatti Postal Division

Kovilpatti Postal Division comprises of Ambasamudram, Kovilpatti, Sankarankoil and Tenkasi taluks. While the taluk of Kovilpatti form part of Thoothukkudi distrtict, the rest of the taluks are in Tirunelveli aistrict. The Ambasamudram Head Post Office consists of 25 delivery sub offices, 5 extra departmental sub offices and 55 branch post offices. Under the Sankarankoil Head Post Office 16 delivery sub offices, 6 extra depatmental sub offices and 93 extra departmental branch post offices , are located; whereas the Tenkasi Head Post Office has 27 delivery sub offices, 5 extra

departmental sub offices and 71 branch offices under its control. Besides this, some post offices and public call offices which actually located, in Tirunelveli district are included in the Kovilpatti division. Achankoil post office in Kerala which was under the control of the Shencottai post office was transferred to Kerala with effect from 1st January 1997.

Likewise, Shencottai Cutchery Class III No Delivery/Public Call Office was also merged with Shencottai post office. In this district in some of the towns there are more than one delivery office located. For example in Kadayanallur in Tenkasi Division two delivery centres are located, one each at Kadayanallur and Krishnapuram.[24] Similarly Shencottai has two sub offices.

The details of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone connections as on 31 March 1976 is furnished in *Appendix - 2* and the list of post offices in 1997 is furnished in *Appendix - 3.*

The Traffic handled by the Tirunelveli and Kovilpatti Postal Divisions from 1 April 1995 to 31 March 1996 is as follows

		Tirunelveli Division	*Kovilpatti Division.*
1.	No.of Registered Letters, Inlands Speed Posts handled by the Post Offices	680400	291037
2.	No.of Registered Parcels	5192	13877
3.	No.of Unregistered Parcels	33567	7680
4.	No.of Valuable Letters / Parcels	2198	2688
5.	No.of Registered Newspapers posted.	158252	30165
6.	No.of Money Orders Handled	289867	296956
7.	No.of Telegrams Booked	72982	284700
8.	No.of Telegrams Delivered	82532	720600
9.	No.of Unregistered Mails	8117332	8816356

The Kovilpatti Division has ten departmental and eight private Franking Machines. The number of post bags available in this division are 21, post boxes 198 and letter boxes 2460.

The various Savings Bank live accounts as on 1st April 1995 in Tirunelveli district is furnished below:-

Name of the Account	*Palayam-kottai*	*Tirunel-veli*	*Amba-samudram*	*Kovil-patti*	*Sankaran-koil*	*Ten-kasi*
SB	34121	29551	22136	25097	23693	22287
RD	71183	43032	59935	39859	37902	66865
CTD	146	75	-	-	-	-
TD	445	6291	1222	3581	1550	2837
MIS	1967	2101	2758	980	470	1462
NSS 87/92	1628	1837	748	249	470	786
PPF	118	82	73	32	21	29

The balance at credit in respect of various types of Savings Bank Accounts as on 31st March 1996 is as follows:-

	Type of Account	*Amount Deposited (in rupees)* *Tirunelveli Division*	*Kovilpatti Division*
1.	Savings bank	26,24,21,093	18,75,13,209.20
2.	Recurring Deposit	16,26,66,656	21,19,97,160.00
3.	Time Deposit (one year)	91,45,650	3,47,50.340.00
4.	Time Deposit (two years)	15,22,250	22,50,050.00
5.	Time Deposit (three years)	22,15,100	18,66,250.00
6.	Time Deposit (five years)	1,79,85,600	50,64,350.00
7.	Monthly Income Scheme.	12,48,59.000	15,33,87,000.00
8.	National Savings Scheme (1987)	3,12,13,583	2,38,42,210.00
9.	National Savings Scheme(1992)	56,47,066	65,66,998.00
10.	Public Provident Fund	19,59,220	28,41,277.00
11.	M.S.Y.	44,54,740	–

The Postal Life Insurance Scheme, a new Insurance Scheme has been introduced in this district, since 31st March 1996. InTirunelveli Division about 561 Medical and 304 Non-Medical policies have been taken. The amount insured in both policies are Rs.2,93,00,000. In Kovilpatti Division, 256 Medical and 662 Non-Medical policies have been taken and the amount insured in both schemes are Rs.1,94,00,000/-

The number of Departmental and Extra Departmental Post Offices with their status is furnished below:-

Departmental

No.of post Offices	*Delivery*	*No.Delivery*	*Total*
HSG-I HO/SO	3	-	3
LSG SOs.	12	-	12
Class I Sos.	7	-	7
Class II Sos.	15	3	18
Class III Sos.	15	18	33
	52	21	73
Extra Departmental			
ED SOs.	10	–	10
ED BOs.	162	5	167
	172	5	177

During July 1995 at Duraikudiyiruppu, a branch post office was opened and in September 1992 two post offices one at Shanthi Nagar, Class III NDSO and another at Padmaneri Class III DSO were opened. This department has proposed to open a branch office at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Campus.

Telegraph

In India, attempt on construction of telegraph lines was made by Dr.W.O.Shaughnessy, of Calcutta Medical College in 1851. He constructed experimental telegraph lines between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour, Bishistopur and Mayapur, and Kukrahati and Kedgeree for business chiefly connected with shipping in the Hooghly . On seeing this experiments proved successful, Lord Dalhousie constructed lines from Calcutta to Bombay via Agra. From Agra to Peshawar and from Bombay to Madras. These were opened for traffic in 1855 after the passing of the Telegraph Act of 1854. The tariff then fixed was one rupee for sixteen words including the address, for 400 miles, and this was made uniform for all distances in 1882.[25]

Telegraphs were owned by the State and were worked by a separate department. Initially there were 13 main trunk lines of communications. In 1885 a new Act i.e. Act XIII was passed and the rates were revised in 1886. Messages were divided into *urgent, ordinary* and *deferred.* Ordinary telegrams were charged one rupee for 8 words and two annas for additional word. Urgent messages were charged double and deferred at half the ordinary rates.

When it was found that the working of the telegraphs was affecting the economy and genuine tax payers had to pay a large subsidy for the maintenance of the telegraph system which was used by only four percent of the population. Triple classification was abolished on 1st January 1909 and only ordinary express messages received. Then twelve words including the address were allowed for an ordinary message, at a charge of six annas; and for the express message the charge was one rupee.

In 1883 itself, post offices were made receiving offices for telegrams. Post offices of this category were called Combined Post and Telegraph Office, which outnumbered the purely telegraph offices solely run by the Telegraph Department.

The Tirunelveli district was served by the Imperial Post from the year 1878. There were offices at Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi. Prior to the advent of the Telegraph Offices, Telegrams were accepted by the Railways.But the charges varied from place to place until 1868 when the charges were made uniform.

In 1893 the Imperial Telegraph opened an office at Cheranmahadevi. Telegraph offices were opened in Melapalayam and Nazereth also in 1894. The district was in fact served by the Posts and Telegraph for more than five decades. The Telegraph service was introduced in most of the post offices some sixty years ago. This Revenue district was under Madurai Telegraph Division until June 1973. With a view to improve the Telegraph facilities in the district, the Government of India carved out a Revenue district of Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari from Madurai Division and formed Tirunelveli Telegraph Traffic Division from 2nd July 1973. To modernise the Telegraph service in this district, this Traffic Division was merged with Tirunelveli Secondary Switching Area since 1st April 1974.

In the beginning Telegraph services were introduced in post offices criss crossing the district with Telegraph lines. Morse lines, as they were called served the community well for over 50 years. Slowly the Morse System was replaced by Electro - Mechanical Teleprinters. As the traffic increased and to cope with it post offices were upgraded as Departmental Telegraph Offices exclusively dealing with Telegrams. The Department of Telecom reaslised the need for a speedy telegram network. Therefore as already said Morse Sounders were replaced by Electronic Key Boards

in post offices with an Electronic Key Board Concentrator at Telegraph Offices to link these small town post offices with cities. In turn these Electronic Key Board Concentrators are meshed with store and forward message switching system capable of connecting 32, 62, and 128 lines.

The Tirunelveli Telegraph Traffic Division has been functioning since 2nd July 1973 and the number and date from which the CTO/DTO's working under this division is as follows:[26]

1.	C.T.O., Tirunelveli,	23/09/1966
2.	D.T.O., Palayamkottai	20/03/1976
3.	D.T.O., Tenkasi,	23/11/1980
4	D.T.O., Ambasamudram,	28/03/1986

The number of Telecom Centres working under this division are:

1.	Tirunelveli Town	from	15-08-1991
2.	Valliyoor	from	18-04-1994
3.	Shencottai	from	13-08-1994
4.	Kadayanallur	from	25-03-1995
5.	Sankarankoil	from	30-03-1995
6.	Alangulam	from	31-03-1995
7.	Kallidaikurichi	from	29-03-1996.

The combined offices working under the division are 377, of which 57 are Morse Centres and the rest are Phonocom Centres.

The Electronic Key Board Concentrator, (EKBC) Electronic Key Boards were commissioned in the C.P.O.,Tirunelveli on 17th January 1994, D.T.O. Tenkasi and D.T.O., Ambasamudram on 7th December 1995, and 17th December 1995 respectively. The number of E.K.B.C's available in the district are 7 and E.K.B's available are 29 . The number of Electronic Teleprinters available are 29 and Fax services are in three Telegraph offices, namely Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Tenkasi. The Telex services are available in all the above offices except Ambasamudram Telegraph Office and Sankarankoil Telecom Centre. STD points are located in all the above offices.

Besides, Express Money Order Transfer Service was commissioned at C.T.O., Tirunelveli and B.T.O., Palayamkottai on 29 March 1996. Since 14 April 1994 Telegrams in Tamil has also been accepted by the C.T.O.,Tirunelveli. The number of Telegrams booked, transmitted and delivered are given in the **Appendix - 4.**

Telecommunications

Tirunelveli Secondary Switching Area (SSA) started with 50 lines, MAX III Exchange in 1945, serving the area presently served by three SSA's namely, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar and Nagercoil, with trunk connected to Madurai. The growth of Telecom Service in this SSA has remarkably improved in the last three years by commissioning Electronic Exchanges in all important towns and villages. Tirunelveli SSA comprises mainly of the twin cities namely Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai separated by the river Tamiraparani.[27]

All the 504 Panchayats have been provided with Telecom facility in this district. This SSA has got the unique distinction of being the first in providing the Subscribers Trunk Dialing (STD) service to all Telephonic Exchanges during the year 1992-93. The areas served by this SSA is 11429 sq.km. and the population covered is nearly 27 lakhs. The number of Telephone exchanges attached to this SSA unit is 62 with an equipped capacity of 33700. Of which 27645 connections are working. The number of Telephone sets provided in the district are 29003. The ratio of Telephone connection to the population was 10.76 per thousand population. The details on telephone exchanges and the working connections provided in the district since 1984 - 85 to 1994 - 95 is furnised in *Appendix - 5*.

The number of Telephone Exchanges functioned and the number of subscribers in the district in 1965 is as follows:-

Sl. No.	*Location*	*No.of Telephone Exchanges.*	*Number of Subscribers*
1.	Tirunelveli	3	635
2.	Shencottai	1	63
3.	Sankarankoil	1	66
4.	Tenkasi	3	149
5.	Ambasamudram	3	89
6.	Nanguneri	2	22

The taluk wise list of Post and Telegraph Offices in 1965.

	Name of the Taluk	*Head Office*	*Sub Office*	*Branch Office*	*Tele-graph Office*
1.	Tirunelveli	1	18	56	9
2.	Tenkasi	-	13	67	5
3.	Sankarankoil	-	9	66	4

4.	Sengottai	-	4	7	3
5.	Ambasamudram	-	20	43	9
6.	Nanguneri	-	18	97	9

The Public Call Offices are also located in this district in Kalakad, Panakudi and Thisayanvilai (Nanguneri taluk) Pavoor Chatram,(Tenkasi Taluk), and Puliyangudi (Sankarankoil taluk).

Growth of Secondary Switching Area (SSA) Tirunelveli.

Year	*Capacity*	*Working Connections*	*Number of Exchanges*
1984-85	6195	5858	35
1985-86	6565	6225	35
1986-87	10499	9540	76
1987-88	10100	9068	58
1988-89	11115	9978	59
1989-90	11390	10381	59
1990-91	12668	11337	59
1991-92	14402	12627	60
1992-93	19964	14969	60
1993-94	24508	20492	60
1994-95	33700	27645	62

Leased Circuits

This facility enables the customers to have direct speech circuit, from one place to another place, connecting his office/factory etc., The annual rent @ Rs.400/- per km. is charged from the customers. Fifty percent concession in the rentals for the leased circuits used for Data transmissions / facimile by the newspaper agencies. In this district 12 leased telephone circuits and 22 teleprinter leased circuits were available in 1996.

All India Radio, Tirunelveli

The main functions of All India Radio are to provide entertainment, information and education to listeners. The All India Radio, Tirunelveli station dedicated for this cause, was started in the year 1964. Before that there were only two stations of All India Radio in Tamil Nadu i.e. one at Madras and the other at Tiruchirappalli, and the southern districts of Tamil Nadu were served by the Tiruchirappalli station.[28]

To make broadcasting more effective to the people of the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, the A.I.R., Tirunelveli started broadcast from 24 December 1964. In the beginning it was an Ancillary Centre i.e. Relay Station to All India Radio, Tiruchirappalli. And Station's programmes in its evening transmission were relayed through a 5 KW. Marconi Transmitting Tower with a height of 180 feet from the newly constructed Transmitter building at Gandhi Nagar on the Southern side of Tirunelveli -Tenkasi Highway i.e. 5 km. away from the city. A Relay Centre constructed at Ramaiyanpatti village on the Tirunelveli-Sankarankoil Highway out of the city limit also added relaying facility. Then in course of time to serve the listerners in and around Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi, Kanniyakumari and Virudhunagar districts (formerly it was formed part of Madurai district) a 30 minutes programme was originated daily at Tirunelveli from 8 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. since March 1969.

Artists, Musicians and Speakers from the above districts were given chances. In this half an hour all types of programmes such as carnatic music, light music, devotional songs, folk musics,. children's programme, industrial worker's programmes, the programme for women, literary talks dramas, features etc. were produced and relayed daily from Tirunelveli Station itself and rural programmes alone were relayed from A.I.R., Tiruchirappalli.

In June 1976, Farm and Home Unit was formed to Broadcast Rural, Agricultural and Family Planning Programmes in the evening transmission which started at 5.30 p.m. and went upto 10.30 p.m. Then, the demand for broadcasting programmes in the morning and the day times were mounted and the public demanded the A.I.R. authorities to start three tramissions daily i.e. morning, noon and evening. With a view to satisfy the public, the three transmission pattern was introduced from 6.15 a.m. on 14 January 1977. Along with the capacity of the Transmitting Tower was upgraded with 10 k.w. Transmitter with adequate staff and technicalities, which covered a wider range of listeners in and around the areas mentioned above. The introduction of this three transmission system gave a fillip to the Radio listeners, also it facilitated the Government in giving wide publicity to its developmental schemes.

All the agricultural programmes have been originated from this station since the inception of the Farm and Home Unit, whereas the educational programmes are relayed either from Tiruchirappalli or from Chennai on all days from 11.40 a.m to 12 Noon, and from 2.15 p. m. to 2.40 p.m.. except on Sundays and holidays. This relay pattern of Educational Programmes was started only in II Transmissions (Midday) with effect from 18th January 1977. This 20 minutes programme serves the student community better. Most of the programmes except the news items, are produced and relayed through this station upto 9.05 a.m.

The third Transmission is in the evening which starts daily at 5.30 p.m. and goes upto 11.05 p.m.. in the night. Since 1983, the programmes in second Transmissions from A.I.R., Madras were delinked , instead programmes from A.I.R., Tiruchirappalli were relayed. Since inception of this station in 1964, it has produced and broadcasted programmes from its own studios, located at Gandhi Nagar, when the three Transmission Pattern was started, a pucca Production Centre was opened at the old Hostel Building of St.John's College, Palayamkottai, where the administration and production work were carried out for some years. The programmes produced at the centre were daily as a routine thing, sent to transmitting centre which was located 8 km. away from Gandhi Nagar, along with the duty staff for broadcast. This practice came to a halt after a decade, and in July 1986, the present A.I.R. building with modern facilities was inaugurated adjacent to the Sarojini Park near Palayamkottai Bus stand. Since then, most of the relay programmes were delinked and A.I.R.,Tirunelveli began to produce its own programmes and the broadcasting pattern also considerably underwent a change.

As a first step in February 1983, carnatic music concerts were started in the spacious music studio , delinking the relays from Madras and Tiruchirappalli. Instead of sending broadcast materials to the Transmitting Centre at Gandhi Nagar, daily programmes are being put through from the permanent underground cables exclusively meant for transmitting purpose via Master Control Room to the Transmitting Tower at Gandhi Nagar, from where the programmes are radiated through a 180 feet height mast.

The programmes broadcasted from this 10 KW. MW. Transmitter goes upto a distance of 70 k.m,. and the Radio listeners in all the southern districts i.e. Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari are able to listen to the clear and good quality programmes.

The A.I.R., Tirunelveli is now a full fledged independent station having all modern broadcasting facilities in all three Transmissions. A few programmes like news items, topical and important programmes are relayed either from Madras or Delhi. Relay of programmes from Tiruchirappalli through permanent Telephone Cable System with perfect relay system, quality programmes are available. The A.I.R., Tirunelveli broadcast / relay programmes in its three daily Transmissions at the timings given below:

I	Transmission	From 5.55 a.m.	to 9.05 a.m.
II	Transmission	From 11.40 a.m.	to 2.40 p.m.
III	Transmission	From 5.30 p.m..	to 11.05 p.m.

On Sundays the morning Transmission will go upto 10 a.m. and the second transmission will start at 12 noon, goes upto 4.30 p.m.

With its multifarious programmes such as Carnatic music, Light music, Folk music, Farm and Home Broadcast, Women and Children's programmes, Industrial Workers programmes, Youth programmes, stage plays, programmes for Senior Citizens etc., the A.I.R. Tirunelveli educates, entertaints and enthrals the people of the three southern districts. These programmes are conducted at different places involving many people in these programme. There are also programmes conducted for invited audience, mass contact programmes which keep the target audience / listeners to inform, educate and entertain.

As a mass contact and communication service to the people, the A.I.R.Tirunelveli is always in the forefront and do all sorts of services of communicating and diseminating messages on warfooting manner at times of natural calamities.For its best services and relaying timely programmes on flood and flood relief works, during the flood havoc in the district in 1993, special award was given to this station by the district administration.

A.I.R.,Tirunelveli started its commercial broadcasting on 1st April 1995 in a small scale and since 2nd October 1996 commercial advertisements have been introduced and broadcasted in all film song chunks and commercial sponsorhip programme in almost all the other special audience programmes of this station. The listeners letters programme is broadcasted every week, in which the appreciation, criticism, comments and suggestions of the Radio Listerners are being read and answered. The active Radio listener is being invited by the A.I.R. to its studio every month, to express his views and sugestions, which is also broadcasted.

On a co-ordination basis, this station contributes many programmes to other stations in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry for relay which enable the Radio listeners of other stations to learn the historical backgrounds, cultural activities, science and technological developments, art and artisitic interests of the southern districts.

Railways

For hundreds of years roads and water ways were the only means of transport in India, as elsewhere, for the carriage of both men and materials. Then came the railways which started carrying bulk of the transport. The Britishers workedout several lines and started a few Railway Companies, initially, Then the lines formerly owned and worked by the late Great Southern India and the Carnatic Railway Companies were amalgamated on 1 January 1874, under the title of the South Indian Railway which on 1 January 1891 was purchased by the State and handed over together with the Villupuram-Guntakkal State Railway, for working as one undertaking to a new Company- the existing South Indian Railway Company.

Tirunelveli Railway Junction

With effect from 1 January 1908, the Jolarpet-Mangalore Section of the former Madras Railway including the Tiruppattur-Krishnagiri, Morapur-Dharmapuri and the Nilgiris Railways was incorporated in the undertaking of the South Indian Railway Company which from the same date, relinquished and made over to the amalgamated Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway Company the 3′ 3 3/8″ Gauge lines from Katpadi to Dharmavaram and from Pakala to Gudur, and obtained running powers over the Madras-Bangalore section of the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway. The Shoranur-Cochin Native State line was inaugurated on the same date, also transferred from the Frontier Madras Railway Company to the South Indian Railway Company for working.

The South Indian Railway System was made up of 16 lines. A section of Railway was formed for Tirunelveli district also. Firstly, on 1 June 1902, to the stretch of 30.6 kms. railways section was opened in between Tirunelveli and Kallidaikurichy. On 1 August 1903, to the length of 49.92 kms railway lines were formed from Kallidaikurichy to Shencottah. The line was a permanent way, laid with 50 lb ball headed steel rails on cast iron pots and 5016 ft. steel rails on wooden sleepers over bridges. The line was fenced at stations and at few places where it ran close to villages and public roads. The sharpest curves was of 1432.5 feet radius. The line was ballested throughout with broken stones. The ruling gradient was 1 in 100.

The line was worked by the South Indian Railway Company at the same proportion of its gross earnings of each half year as obtained on the whole of the Company's undertaking including the Travancore Branch.

The railway line between Tirunelveli - Quilon (Travancore) Native section was opened on 1 June 1904, to the length of 45.25 kms. The next line, to the length of 47.63 kms from Punalur to the Frontier of the Travancore State near Shencottai was opened on 26 November 1904. At the end of 1907 nearly 153.5 kms. of railway line was laid in the district. The length of the railway line in the district had gone up gradually.

Railway line between Tirunelveli and Tiruchendur

Sanction to the construction of this line to the length of 61.18 kms. by the South Indian Railway Company on behalf of the District Board Tirunelveli was conveyed in Railway Board's notification No.211, dated, the 14th July 1915. Owing to the abnormal conditions on accent of I World War the construction work which was in progress was abruptly stopped for some time.[29]

In the early 50's the district was served by 302 kms of metre gauge line of the Southern Railway. The main line ran from Madurai to Thoothukkudi traversing Kovilpatti and Srivaikundam taluks. A branch line took off at Maniyachi on the main line proceeded via Tirunelveli upto

Sengottai and beyond, into the United States of Travancore and Cochin, traversing Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi taluks. There was a branch line from Tirunelveli Junction to Tiruchendur passing via Srivaikundam and Tiruchendur taluks.A chord line branching off from Tenkasi connected with the Main line at Virudhunagar Junction traversed Sankarankoil taluk of this distrtict. The district headquarters, all the divisional headquarters and all the taluk headquarters, except Nanguneri were served by the railways. Nanguneri was however served by a passenger; parcel and goods out agency from Tirunelveli junction. There were also parcels and goods out agencies for Tisayanvilai and Vadakkuvalliyur in Nanguneri taluk from Tirunelveli Junction.[30] A main line ran from Madurai to Thoothukkudi through Kovilpatti and Srivaikundam taluks. This line at Maniyachi branched off and proceeded to Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala State, through Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Tenkazsi and Sengottai taluks. On the whole, during the early 1960's the district had 309.6 kms. of metre gauge line running through connecting various places. A new line connecting Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari through Nanguneri was under consideration.[31]

Thoothukkudi 28.8 kms. from Maniyachi formed a southern terminus of the Southern Railway. The Southern Railway line to Trivandrum passed through the district in the North. Maniyachi Tenkasi and Tirunelveli were the three Junctions in the district. The Southern Railway line from Madurai to Thoothukkudi was opened for traffic on 1st January 1976 and the line from Thoothukkudi to Foreshore 0.528 kms. was declared open on 7th August, 1899. The section of railway line from Maniyachi to Tirunelveli 28.8 kms. was opened on 1 January 1876. The Tirunelveli - Sengottai line of the then Travancore Railway was opened in two sections. The Tirunelveli-Kallidaikurichi line 30.4 kms. was opened on 1st June 1902, the Kallidaikurichi-Sengottai line 50.4 kms. was opened on 1st August 1903.

The Indian Railways the second largest Railway System in the World operates nearly 78000 passenger services a day including sub-urban services, to more about 11 million people over the route length of approximately 62300 km. For administrative convenience Indian Railways is divided in to 9 Zones- Central, Eastern, Northern, North Eastern, North East Frontier, Southern, South Central, South Eastern and Western.

Of these 9 Zones Tamil Nadu comes under the operational jurisdiction of Southern Railway, which was established in 1951 by the Integration of Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway, South Indian Railway and Mysore State Railway. The Railway traversing approximately 6924 route km and 845 stations, occupies an important position in the country's Railway net work. It links the Southern States of Tamil nadu, Kerala, a major portion of Karnataka, a small part of Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Pondicherry with the rest of the country in the North, East and West.

Southern Railway is essentially a passenger oriented and carries a million passengers daily. The number of passengers orientating in 1992-93 was 317.24 millions as against 332.44 millions during 1991-92. The number of passenger orientating during 1992-93 has dropped by about 15.20 millions.

The Southern Railway plays a vital role in the agricultural and industrial growth and economic development of the regions saved.

The Madurai Division of the Southern Railway serves the districts of Tirunelveli, Pudukkottai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Kanniyakumari, Theni, Sivagangai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu State and Kollam and Palakkad in Kerala. Madurai Division has 127 Block Stations and the passenger trains halts at 29 Railway Stations. This division has been all along a Meter Gauge Division, with the opening of a Broad Gauge line between Tirunelveli / Thoothukkudi and Dindigul, the core route of Madurai has already become Broad Gauge. This Divisioin is serving the traffic requirement of major industries which produce cement, fertilizer, common salt and caustic soda, in addition to agricultural produces like cardamom, rice and paddy and other general merchandise like safety matches, fireworks, handloom and other mill textiles.[32]

The new 51 km long Broad Gauge Railway line from Tirunelveli to Milavittan was opened on 6th May 1985, which forms a part of the larger scheme of the Karur-Dindigul-Madurai-Thoothukkudi. Tirunelveli project, work on which was inaugurated on 30th August 1982. The Broad Gauge line is intended to link directly the major all weather port of Thoothukkudi and places of tourist interest and pilgrim centres in the State with the Northern part of the Country. It will. also usher in an era of economic and industrial development of the main central corridor of Tamil nadu.

The Railway network in Tamil Nadu at present consists of 1006 km. of Broad Gauge line and 2881 km. of Metre Gauge making a total of 3887 km. This is about 60 percent of the total km. of Southern Railway. The total length of the Railway lines in India per 1000 square km. of the land's area is 18.6 km. whereas it is 26.7 km. in Tamilnadu. The line from Madras Egmore to Madurai is one of the most important and intensely used Metre Gauge sections in the Country. The existence of the Metre Gauge and Broad Gauge system has affected the free flow of traffic, due to problems of transhipment particularly in freight movement.

A number of factors, most important of which being the commissioning of Thermal Power Plants at Ennore, Neyveli and Thoothukkudi under the successive Five Year Plans of the State and Central Governments, rendered the development of Broad Gauge rail facilities in these areas a vital necessity. Thoothukkudi though a major Port Town with a fast growing industrial

Township, is a major harbour, has just now been connected through Broad Gauge rail link. The important of linking the part with the rest of India by means of a direct Broad Gauge line needs no emphasis.

The 86 km long new Broad Gauge line from Trivandrum to Kanniyakumari via Nagercoil and the 73 km. long new Broad Gauge line from Nagercoil to Tirunelveli already opened in two phases during 1979 and 1981, facilitate improvement of railway traffic to a great extent and caused economic development in the Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts.

The next step in the same direction is the construction of a new line from Karur through Dindigul-Madurai-Thoothukkudi-Tirunelveli which closed the vital gap in the Broad Gauge map of the Southern Region. The main project was implemented in four stages.

Stage 1 is the construction of a parrellel Broad Gauge line from the existing Broad Gauge rail head Tirunelveli to Thalaiyuthu and further to Thoothukkudi via Maniyachi , Stage-2 is the construction of a new Broad Gauge line from the existing Broad Gauge rail head at Karur to Dindigul. In stage 3, construction of a parallel Broad Gauge line from Dindigul to Madurai will be completed. Stage 4 will be the conversion of the Metre Gauge line from Madurai to Maniyachi (via) Virudhunagar, into Broad Gauge and with the commissioning of Broad Gauge from Tirunelveli to Milavittan. Apart from solving the break of gauge problems in the Southern Region, with the consequent improvement in the mobility of traffic the new Broad Gauge line will foster closer social contacts among the people of important industrial and commercial forms and tourist and pilgrim centres namely Salem, Coimbatore, Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Dindigul, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli, and Kanniyakumari. This will, then add a direct link between Southern and Northern States of India.

The new pattern of traffic movement provides relief to the Metre Gauge Madras - Tiruchirappalli-Madurai Sector and help speed up both goods and passenger train services. However, the benefit through the all Broad Gauge routes will not be much in view of the increasing congestion on the Trivandrum-Shoranur-Erode Broad Gauge Sector. This is despite the series of doubling works now on this section. The heavy traffic increase projected in the highly passenger oriented Kerala area is likely to offset the additional capacity created by these doubling programmes. The project cost estimated at Rs.42 crore originally in 1978 was assessed at Rs.71 crore in 1985. Every year the delay was pushing up costs by 10 percent.

Meanwhile on completion of the Karur-Dindigul-Thoothukkudi project, the 225 km. Quilon Shencottah -Virudhunagar Metre Gauge section will get sandwiched, if not virtually isolated between two major Broad Gauge trunk routes. Conversion of this section into Broad Gauge, besides benefiting the industries in Sivakasi-Tenkasi belt will provide immense relief to the

congested Erode-Quilon South West line. Such a proposal will also cater to the industrial needs in the Western portion of Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts, the eastern segment of the Quilon district and the Southern part of Madurai district.[33]

As on 1st April 1997, the railway line in the district was 22.225 km. in Broad Gauge and 207.380 km. in Metre Gauge. There were only two Railway junctions, viz., Tirunelveli and Tenkasi located in the district.

The list of Railway Stations in Broad Gauge and Meter Gauge routes and the distance between each Stations from Tirunelveli Junction is given below:

Broad Gauge:		**M.E.J - Tirunelveli.**
1.	Gangaikondan	- 14.51 k.m.
2.	Talayuthu	- 6.80 km.
Metre Gauge: VPT - TSI		
1.	Sankarankoil	108.87 km.
2.	Pambu kovil shandy	97.06 km.
3.	Kadayanallur	88.02 km.
4.	Tenkasi	72.02 km.
5.	Shencottai	79.85 km.
6.	Bhagavathipuram	86.59 km.
TEN - TSI - Quilon		
7.	Cheranmahadevi	18.99 km.
8.	Viravanallur	24.74 km.
9.	Kallidaikurichi	30.09 km.
10.	Ambasamudram	34.43 km.
11.	Kizha Ambur	40.97 km.
12.	Alwarkurichi	45.79 km.
13.	Ravanasamudram	48.03 km.
14.	Kilakadayam	49.72 km.
15.	Mettur	56.63 km.
16.	Pavurchatram	61.47 km.
Tenkasi - Thoothukkudi		
17.	Palayamkottai	5-09 km.
18.	Seidhunganallur	15.96 km.

19.	Srivaikundam	28.19 km.
20.	Alwar Thirunagar	32.92 km.
21.	Nazareth	38.63 km.
22.	Kachchanavilai	43.86 km.
23.	Kurumbur	46.05 km.
24.	Arumuganeri	51.95 km.
25.	Kayalpattinam	53.79 km.
26.	Tiruchendur	61.21 km.

In the Tenkasi-Thoothukkudi section except the Palayamkottai and Seithunganallur stations, the other stations are located in Thoothukkudi district.[34]

As in April 1997, in the Broad Gauge section, two pairs of Express trains and four pairs of Passenger trains pass through the district.

The Express Trains are

1. Train No.6721/6722 Madras - Kanniyakumari -TIAs Express -via Tirunelveli.
2. Train No.6339/6340 Nagercoil-C.S.T.Mumbai-Nagercoil Via Tirunelveli.

The Passenger Trains are

1. Train No.381/382 - Nagercoil-Madurai- Nagercoil Passenger-via Tirunelveli.
2. Train No.727/728 - Nagercoil-Quilon-Madurai Passenger via Tirunelveli.
3. Train No.723/724 Tirunelveli-Thoothukkudi-Tirunelveli Passenger.
4. Train No.732/733 - Tirunelveli -Thoothukkudi-Tirunelveli Passenger.

In the Metre Gauge section one pair of Express train between Chennai Egmore - Tirunelveli and Tirunelveli-Chennai Egmore and seven pairs of Passenger trains are running.[35]

They are

1. Train No.731/734 Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli.
2. Train No.735/736 Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli.
3. Train No.737/738 Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli.
4. Train No.739/740 Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli.

5. Train No.741/748 Tirunelveli-Quilon-Tirunelveli
6. Train No.744/745 Tirunelveli-Quilon-Tirunelveli
7. Train No.742/747 Tirunelveli-Shencottai-Tirunelveli

These trains apart, some express and passenger trains that pass through Tirunelveli Junction halt there.

These trains are

1. Mumbai - Nagercoil Express
2. Madras Central - Kanniyakumari/Thoothukkudi express.
3. Nagercoil - Mumbai Express
4. Thoothukkudi/Kanniyakumari Madras Central Express.
5. Thoothukkudi - Madras Central link Express.

II - Passenger Trains

1. Tirunelveli - Nagercoil
2. Tirunelveli - Thoothukkudi
3. Madurai - Nagercoil
4. Madurai - Quilon
5. Thoothukkudi - Madurai
6. Nagercoil - Madurai
7. Nagercoil - Kanniyakumari
8. Sengottai Quilon
9. Tirunelveli - Quilon
10 Madurai - Shencottai

The following Railway Stations are located on the Broad Gauge section of the district.

Tirunelveli, Talayuthu, Gangaikondan, Melapalayam, Nanguneri, Dalapathi Samudram, Valliyoor, N.Panagudi and Kavalkinar.

The undermentioned are the Railway Stations situated in the Tirunelveli - Sengottai section on Meter Gauge section. Tirunelveli Junction, Tirunelveli Town, Pettai, Cheranmahadevi, Karukurichy, Viravanallur, Kallidaikurichy, Ambasamudram, Kizha Ambur, Alwarkurichy, Ravanasamudram, Tenkasi Junction and Sengottai.

Statistics on Goods Transported by Rail at Tirunelveli from 1987 to 1997 is furnished below

No.of Goods Trains Run

Year	*TEN*	*MEJ*	*SCT*	*TEN*	*TEN*	*MVN*
		(M.G)			*(B.G)*	
	UP	*DN*	*UP*	*DN*	*UP*	*DN*
1987-88	440	334	138	20	444	144
1988-89	324	321	231	29	598	525
1989-90	306	253	92	9	438	459
1990-91	299	333	87	11	489	479
1991-92	373	230	104	14	447	352
1992-93	468	340	213	77	589	482
1993-94	-	-	133	121	417	474
1994-95	-	-	98	90	515	278
1995-96	-	-	64	40	471	142
1996-97	-	-	23	18	463	100

Goods Transported by Rail

Year	*Interchange*		*Originating loading*		*OTL Released*
	Received	*Handed over*			*Tirunelveli*
		(In Tonnes)			
1987-88	37401.0	39140.0	1479		--
1988-89	47082.5	38840.0	928		--
1989-90	9313.5	3238.5	600		5650
1990-91	38768.5	38571.0	332		15048
1991-92	38738.5	40286.0	469		13729
1992-93	45703.0	42867.0	MG 260	BG 878	17384
1993-94	53017.5	51480.5	MG 48	BG 499	16958
1994-95	61715.5	60901.5	MG 56	BG 1558	17051
1995-96	60298.0	57305.0	MG 296	BG 843	17649
1996-97	73131.0	65259.5	MG 15	BG 294	19223

Public Transport

During the early days of the last Century the different centres in this region were rarely connected by roads. As a contrast the district can now boast of a fairly good network of roads and railways. Conditions of roads in general deteriorated during the war. In order to make good this setback in road construction and maintenance and to repair damages cost by increased and enormous volume of traffic during war. The postwar development and reconstruction schemes were evolved. The schemes made much headway in this district. In 1944 the new highways department was formed in order to take charge of the execution of the postwar reconstruction scheme. The progress was quite rapid during the next decade. The road maintenance had been perfected to a great extent. Under the development programme such as National Extension Service, Community Projects, Local Development Works, etc., roads were constructed to serve the scattered villages with population of less than 500. The total road mileage of 2459.2 kms. during 1950-51 increased to 3582.4 kms. in 1960-61. Of the 3276.8 kms. of roads, National Highways accounted for 36 kms. and State High Ways 169.9 kms. The rest of 3276.8 kms. were either District Board Roads or Village Roads. Of this 411.2 kms. of road alone were unmettelled and most of these roads were under the control of the Local Boards. In general the roads under the control of the Highways were well maintained compared to others. The total number of vehicles had also increased from 1974 to 2671 during the decades.(1960) Of the total vehicles in the State 10.1 per cent were registered in this district. The public transport was run by private fleet owners and 414 buses were operated during 1960. It works out to 8.6 per cent of the total private buses running in this State. Express buses run by the State owned government transport connected Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and other important places in this district, by road with Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, and Coimbatore in the North and Kanniyakumari in the South. Equal number of goods vehicle were also found operated during 1960.

In Tirunelveli district before the Nationalisation of buses private operators were licensed to operate buses to carry passengers among the private operators M/s.Southern Roadways,. Lion Automobiles, Sri Ram Popular, and Sri Ganapathy Motor Service were holding more than 10 stage carriages. Among them M/s.Southern Roadways figured top in all aspects i.e. maintenance of buses, promptness in service, etc. They also owned more than 50 carriage permits. During 1957 the Government of Tamil Nadu decided to Nationalise (i) all routes of 120 km. and above, both ordinary and express service, (ii) all routes radiating from or terminating in Madras city irrespective of length and (iii) all routes in Kanniyakumari district including those radiating from or terminating in the district, in the

interest of the travelling public and to give an efficient service to the community. Under the Tamil Nadu Fleet Operators Stage Carriage, Acquisition Act 1971, government took over all the routes, buses and workshops along with the staff of the fleet operators owning not less than 50 buses were acquired forming a Government Transport Corporation under the banner of Kattabomman Transport Corporation . Due to this action of the government in Tirunelveli district the Southern Road Ways Private Limited was taken over by M/s.Kattabomman Transport Corporation which was designed to operate buses in Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts. The district has the following means of Transport which cater to the needs of the public: Buses owned by the erstwhile Kattabomman Transport Corporation, Ltd., and other Private Operators; goods vehicles for transportation of goods; tourist taxis; two wheelers; omni buses; ordinary taxis; autorikshaws; maxi cabs; and passenger cum goods vehicles and train services from all over the State.

The district comes under the operational jurisdiction of the Zonal Deputy Transport Commissioner, Tirunelveli, who is in charge of the three districts viz., Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari. For the administrative convenience, each Zone has been further divided into regions and units. The Tirunelveli region is headed by the Regional Transport Officer, who is assisted by a Personal Assistant, four Superintendents, five Motor Vehicle Inspectors and other ministerial staff. Under the control of the Regional Transport Officer, Tirunelveli, an Unit Office at Tenkasi is functioning. The staff attached to that office is two Motor Vehicle Inspectors and four Junior Assistants. The Regional Transport Officer, Tirunelveli is in charge of the works related to issue of driving licenses, fitness certificates, registering new vehicles, issue of permits, to run vehicles, etc. The Unit Office does the similar functions of the Regional Transport Officer, except the issue of permits to the new vehicles.[36]

The number of permits of different kinds of vehicles in force at the end of 1958 in the district was Stage Carriages; Pucca-381, Temporary-. Public Carrier; Pucca-440.Private Carrier; Pucca-110 Contract Carriage -39.

The number of Motor Vehicles other than those for which permits issued in1958 were 1323. The breakup was motor cycles 213, motor cars including station wagons and jeeps 1063, ambulances-4, school buses-3, tractor-1, trailors-35, road rollers and other special vehicles-4.

The number of vehicles registered were 183 (motor cycles-10, motor cars-68, buses-27, lorries-56, motor cab-1, tractors-4, trailors-12 and other vehicles-5)

Six hundred and twenty three persons were authorised to drive transport vehicles, and eighty five persons were issued Conductor

Certificates in 1960. The fee collected through registration, licenses,, badges and fines, certificates, permits and other miscellaneous were Rs.86469/-

The length of roads in this district in 1990-91 was 9129 km. of which the riding surface was 5432 km. and unsurfaced 3697 km. The total number of buses which flied during 1992 was 714, the bus facility available per hundred sq.km. was 10 and the buses per lakh population was 29. Statistics on the type of vehicles on road and the number of driving licences issued since 1975 - 1980 is furnished in *Appendix - 6 & Appendix - 7*

The number of private operators and transport owners as on 31st March 1996 is as follows: the erstwhile Kattabomman Transport Corporation- Route buses - 397, Spare buses - 36,the erstwhile Pandian Roadways Corporation - 4, the erstwhile Nesamony Transport Corporation Route buses - 34, Spare buses -3, Private Operators Route buses - 176, Spare buses - 63, Lorry permits (State): Light Motor Vehicles - 1259, Hazardous goods vehicles - 23, Tanker type - 5, Big lorries - 1512,.Articulated vehicles -18,Tractors - 1274,Trailors - 1354, National Permit : Hazardous vehicles -13, Heavy Lorries - 154, Articulated Vehicles - 6 ,Vans - 16, Tourist Taxis - 37, Ordinary Taxis - 159, Autos - 1199.

Apart from this, 1102 tourist taxis with State permits, 906 maxi cabs, two route buses, from Madras to Tirunelveli, 57 company vehicles fly in the district.

Motor vehicles newly registered in the district since 1986 to 1997 is furnished below

Year:	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
No.	5367	4116	5213	4392	4705	4505
Year:	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
No.	4616	4760	5151	7500	7950	7918

The number of personalised vehicles or vehicles non transport, for e.g. scooters, own cars etc., available in 1992 were 44011. As in March 1996, approximately about 12000 scooters, 14000 motor cycles, 34000 mopeds, 8000 motor cars, and 800 jeeps were on road.

The Number of persons authorised to drive public service vehicles in 1982 were 115706, whereas the number rose to 382994 in 1992.

Revenue realised by the transport department by way of licenses, fees, taxes, fines etc.[37]

Year	Tax	Fees	Other Receipt	Total
1990-91	72785691	17357660	829116	90972467
1991-92	77326076	7862833	665955	85854864
1992-93	86790704	5691792	743589	93226085
1993-94	101964963	5499711	682712	108147386
1994-95	116344336	7818463	1417301	125580100
1995-96	108666675	8250126	2326525	119243326
1996-97	120854409	1108827	3482035	135425271

Statement showing the particulars of stage carriers in the district (as on 31st March1994)

Sl.No.	Name and Address of the Operator	Number of buses operated
1.	Antony Transport,Tirunelveli	3
2.	St.Andrews Motor Service(P)Ltd. Palayamkottai.	5
3.	St.Andrews Transport,Tirunelveli	2
4.	M.A.Gopalan Motor Service	2
5.	A.V.Rm.V.Transport Service, Sankarankoil.	4
6.	Azeez Transport, Sankarankoil	2
7.	Bervin Transports (P) Ltd.	1
8.	Sri Pon Roadways,Palayamkottai.	2
9.	Jebamani Transports,Tirunelveli	3
10.	Chepparai Trtansport,Tirunelveli	1
11.	King Transports,Methamarpalayam	2
12.	Dhanapal Transports,Tirunelveli.	2
13.	Dhanaperinbam Transport,Palayamkottai	4
14.	M.G.G.Transport,Tirunelveli.	3
15.	David Pakkiaraj, Palayamkottai	1
16.	Essakkiammal,Tirunelveli Junction	2

17.	Ebenesar Ammal, Palayamkottai	3
18.	Flower Transport (P)Ltd.Rajapalayam	1
19.	Gnanamony Transport,Tirunelveli junction	4
20.	Sonamuthu Roadways, Tirunelveli	2
21.	M.Gandhimathi,Tirunelveli	3
22.	Sri Ganapathy Bus Service,Tirunelveli Jn.	3
23.	P.Govindasamy,Tirunelveli Junction.	1
24.	Gomathi Ambigai Bus Transport, Tirunelveli Junction.	1
25.	Annai Chellam Transport,Sankarankoil.	2
26.	Sri Lakshmi Transport,Tirunelveli	2
27.	Selvamurugan Bus Service,Sankarankoil	2
28.	Imperial Roadways, (P)Ltd, Palayamkottai.	2
29.	Gnanamuthu Transport,Tirunelveli	2
30.	Janakiram alias Antony,Tirunelveli Junction	2
31.	Jayaram Transport, Tirunelveli Town.	2
32.	T.Jayaraj Roadways, Kovilpatti V,	1
33.	DeivarajTransposts, Kovilpatti V,	1
34.	K.J.R.Jayaramaraja, Rajapalayam.	1
35.	S.Kannabiran,Tirunelveli	1
36.	Krishna Roadways, Co. Tirunelveli	1
37.	Dhanaperinbam Roadways,Palayamkottai.	5
38.	S.G.K.R.Transport,Palayamkottai	5
39.	G.Kamatchinathan, Tirunelveli	1
40.	V.Kasthuri, Tirunelveli	3
41.	Ganapathy Motor Service,Tiruenveli Junction	6
42.	M.K.Gopalan Motor Service,Tirunelveli	3
43.	Kovilpatti Transport, (P) Ltd.,Sattur.	1
44.	Kareem Transport,Sankarankoil	1
45.	Sri Arumugam Transport,Tenkasi	2
46.	R.Kalyanasundaram, Tirunelveli	2

47.	Lion Bus Service, Tirunelveli Jn.	3
48.	Sri Ganapathy Roadways, Tirunelveli Jn.	3
49.	PTS Motor Service, Tirunelveli Jn.	3
50.	M/s.Lion Motor Services (Firm) Tirunelveli.	1
51.	Meeran Transport, Tirunelveli	4
52.	Muthuvel, Tirunelveli	3
53.	P.Mariappan,Kovilpatti	2
54.	Raja Travels, Melapalayam	2
55.	PSK Roadway, Srivilliputhur	1
56.	ADJ Roadways, Tirunelveli	2
57.	T.Madasamy, Kovilpatti	3
58.	A.Mohan, Sankarankoil	1
59.	Muthusingapparaja Rajapalayam.	2
60.	Sri Ponnumuthu & co., Palayamkottai	4
61.	Sri Parijatham Transport,Tirunelveli Junctioin.	2
62.	S.Parthasarathy,Tirunelveli	2
63.	S.A.Paramasivam,Sankarankoil	2
64.	K.S.Pankajammal, Rajapalayam,	2
65.	N.K.R.Roadways, Thoothukkudi.	1
66.	Sri Mayilvahanan Roadways,Palayamkottai	2
67.	Sri Ramamoorthy Motor Service,Tirunelveli Jn.	1
68.	Sri Narayana Roadways,Tirunelveli-3	1
69.	Ganapathy Bus Service,Tirunelveli	4
70.	S.Ramasundaram, Tirunelveli	1
71.	M.R.Gopalan Motor Service, Tirunelveli	2
72.	M.P.Ramiah Pillai, Tirunelveli	3
73.	Rahuman Transport, Sankarankoil	1
74.	K.J.Ravindra Raja Rajapalayam.	2
75.	Sri Ram Popular Service,Pettai	2
76.	S.T.K.N. & Sons, Sankarnagar.	5

77.	S.G.K.R.Automobiles (P)Ltd, Palayamkottai	3
78.	Daniel Transport, Palayamkottai	3
79.	Sethuramalingam Roadways, Kalugumalai	2
80.	Sri Balakumaran Transport, Tenkasi	1
81.	Sri Seethapathi Transport, Tirunelveli	4
82.	S.Selvaraj, Tirunelveli Jn.	3
83.	Sri Lakshmi Sundaram Transport, Tirunelveli Jn	1
84.	S.Subramaniam, Tirunelveli Jn.	2
85.	S.P.Sampathraj, Kovilpatti	1
86.	K.M.Sankaramurugan, Palayamkottai	2
87.	Jai Devi Transport, Ambasamudram	3
88.	K.R.Sri Rengaperumal Raja, Rajapalayam	2
89.	K.R.Sri Renga Raja, Rajapalayam	1
90.	Sri Ramajayam Motor Service, Palayamkottai.	1
91.	Sri Valli Transport, Palayamkottai.	1
92.	Sri Murugan Transport, Palayamkottai	2
93.	Sri Narayana Motor Service, Palayamkottai.	1
94.	M.G.G.Roadways, Palayamkottai	3
95.	A.D.J.Roadways, Palayamkottai	3
96.	A.Thenraj, Sankarankoil	3
97.	A.D.J.Transport, Tirunelveli Jn.	4
98.	Uthandan Transport, Sankarankoil	2
99.	S.Vijayasai, Tirunelveli	3
100.	K.Viswanathan, Palayamkottai	6
101.	S.Vadivelmurugan, Tirunelveli	1
102.	Sri Seethapathy Motor Service, Tirunelveli.	3
103.	R.Valaimurugan, Tirunelveli	2
104.	M.Vasudevan, Sankarankoil	2
105.	Japan Travels,	3
106.	K.S.R.M.Rengasamy Raja, Rajapalayam.	1

These operators operated 232 buses in permanent routes and six buses in temporary routes. Besides, the erstwhile Kattabomman Transport Corporation, Tirunelveli operated 423 buses in 309 routes and 12 temporary buses. The erstwhile Nesamony Transport Corporation, Nagercoil, also operated buses on 27 permanent and 7 temporary routes. While the erstwhile Pandian Roadways Corporation, Madurai flied its buses on four permanent routes in 1994. These services operated only in intra State routes.

The government have removed the names of all the transport corporations, from transport zones after amalgamating a few corporations during 1997.

Pandian Roadways Corporation

Before the amalgamation of the transport corporations Pandian Roadways Corporation, Madurai operated its buses in Madurai Shencottai sector. It got two branches in the district, (operate buses in 22 routes) one each at Sankarankoil and Sengottai.

Kattabomman Transport Corporation

This corporation was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 with effect from 12 December 1973 and commenced its business from 1st January 1974, with headquarters at Nagercoil to cater to the transport needs of Kanniyakumari and the Tirunelveli districts. [38]

With a view to provide transport facilities to unserved villages and to augument the existing facilities in other routes , this corporation was bifurcated on, 1st April 1983 and the new Corporation was formed as Nesamony Transport Corporation, Ltd., with headquarter's at Nagercoil to serve Kanniyakumari district and Kattabomman Transport Corporation, Ltd.,. with headquarters at Tirunelveli so as to serve Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi districts.This Corporation started functioning with headquarters at Tirunelveli since 1st April 1983 with 423 buses and 309 routes . In 1996 this Corporation was operating 857 buses in 562 routes. It carried an average of seven lakh commuters and covered to the length of 3.22 lakh km. daily. The rate per km for ordinary services was 14 .5 paise.

This Corporation maintained 17 depots, of which 10 were located in the district in the following places.

1. Tirunelveli Mofussil Branch / R.C.Unit, Palayamkottai
2. Tirunelveli Town Branch, Palayamkottai.
3. Kattabomman Nagar Depot, Palayamkottai
4. Body Building Unit, Palayamkottai.

5. Tenkasi Depot, Puliyoor.
6. Papanasam Depot, Vikramasingapuram.
7. Puliyangudi Depot, Sivagiri.
8. Valliyoor /Spring RC/Body Building Unit, Valliyoor.
9. Sankarankoil Depot, Sankarankoil.
10. Tisayanvilai Depot, Tisayanvilai.

The number of passengers travelled, accidents occurred and income derived through these buses, since 1983 to 1996 is given in *Appendix- 8.*

Circuit Houses/Inspection Bungalows

Circuit House-Palayamkottai at Vannarpet

The Circuit House at Palayamkottai is located at about two km. from the Tirunelveli bus stand and railway station. It was constructed in 1962, in an area of 815.23 sq.mts. and later additional buildings were added to an area of 400 sq.mts. 11 suites are available here, of which two are air conditioned the rest non air conditioned. The reservation for stay in the suites are made through the Collector of the district. Both vegetarian and non vegetarian cuisines are available.

Courtallam Circuit House

This Circuit House is siutated six km. away from Tenkasi and one km. from Courtallam bus stand. It was constructed in 1959 in an area of 483.09 sq.mts. (ground floor + first floor) Five suites are available here of which four are non air conditioned. The remaining is air conditioned.The reservation authority for the suite is the Collector of the district. Catering facility is not available.

Inspection Bungalows, Sengottai

This Inspection Bungalow constructed in 1954 has two non airconditioned suites to accommodate officials. The areas of this two suites are 141.67 sq.mts. The reservation authority rests with the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department. Catering facility is not available here.

Thirukkurungudi

The Rest House here is located very near to Thirukkurungudi bus stand. It was constructed in 1890 in an area of 104 sq.mts. Only one non air conditioned suite is available for stay. The reservation authority is the Public Works Department.

Project House, Tenkasi

The Project House, now the Inspection Bungalow was constructed in 1931. The area of the building is 59.52 sq.mts. The two suites which

are available for stay are non airconditioned. The reservation authority is the Collector of the district. It is located one km. away from the Tenkasi Railway station and two km. from Tenkasi bus stand.

Project House, Manimuthar

This Inspection Bungalow is situated near the Manimuthar bus stand and 7 km.off the Kallidaikurichi Railway station. It was constructed in 1955 in an area of 3008 sq.mts., with the building area of 317.03 sq.mts. two non airconditoned suites are available, for which reservations are made through the Collector.

Rest Shed, Ayikudi

This is located 11 km. off Tenkasi Railway Station. It was constructed in 1912 in an area of 6232.38 sq.mts., of which Rest Shed building alone is 1197.49 sq.mts. Two suites are available for accommodation. Reservation authoritiy is the Public Works Department.

Kalakkad

This is half a km. off Kalakkad bus stand and 21 km. from Cheranmahadevi bus stand. It was constructed in the year 1890, in an area of 97.86 sq.mt. Only one suite is available here. The reservations are made through the Public Works Department. No catering facility is available.

Cheranmahadevi

This is half a km. away from the Cheranmahadevi bus stand and one km.from the Railway Station. It was constructed in 1876. The area of the building with two suites is 311.5 sq.mts. For accommodation the Public Works Department can be approached.

Radhapuram

This was constructed in 1964. Two non airconditoned suites are available. The building area is 132 sq.mts. Reservation authority is the Assistant Engineer, Vadakkankulam. No catering facility is available here.[39]

APPENDIX - 1

Length of Roads

(in kilometres)

Maintained by								ConcreteBituminous		
	75-76	76-77	77-78	78 -79	79-80	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	79-80
1. National Highways	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2. State Highways	68.32	76.64	84.07	94.50	12.33	4449.72	6884.44	8099.24	10666.83	2637.58
3. Major District Roads	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4. Other District Roads	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5. Municipality	94.14	95.13	95.13	103.33	169.01	167.09	171.31	171.31	192.32	155.77
6. Panchayat Union including Town Panchayat	--	--	--	--	--	112.00	167.40	180.60	199.20	19.80
7. Private Agencies	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	162.46	171.77	179.20	197.83	181.34	4728.81	7223.15	8451.15	10879.07	3083.50

APPENDIX - 1 (Contd).

(in kilometres)

Maintained by	Water bound				
	75-76	*76-77*	*77-78*	*78 -79*	*79-80*
1. National Highways	--	--	--	--	--
2. State Highways					
3. Major District Roads	1208.77	1517.53	1685.43	2061.33	525.20
4. Other District Roads					
5. Municipality	196.94	207.34	207.34	219.11	86.46
6. Panchayat Union including Town Panchayat	3285.20	4912.75	5680.85	6687.55	1683.96
7. Private Agencies	--	--	--	--	--
Total	**4690.91**	**6637.62**	**7573.62**	**8967.99**	**2295.62**

APPENDIX - 1 (contd...)

Maintained by	Unsurfaced					Total				
	75-76	76-77	77-78	78 -79	79-80	75-76	76-77	77-78	78-79	79-80
1. National -- Highways	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
2. State Highways										
3. Major District Roads	40.40	44.80	45.20	48.00	0.40	5767.21	8523.41	9913.94	12827.56	3195.51
4. Other District Roads										
5. Municipality	77.48	79.88	79.88	88.18	165.26	535.65	553.66	553.66	602.94	576.50
6. Panchayat Union including Town Panchayat	3595.20	4762.70	5252.80	11579.32	1512.30	6792.40	9242.85	11094.25	18286.79	3216.06
7. Private Agencies	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	3513.08	4887.38	5357.88	11672.40	1677.96	13095.26	18919.92	21561.85	31717.29	7238.42

APPENDIX - 2

Details of Post offices, Telegraph offices and Telephone connections as on 31st March 1976.

Taluks	*Postal facilities*					*Telephones*	
	Post and Telegraph • offices		*Telegraph offices*	*No. of postmen*	*No. of letter boxes*	*No. of Telephones*	*No. of public call offices*
	Depart-mental	*Extra Depart-mental*					
1. Tirunelveli *							
a. Nanguneri	97	213	55	142	1089	3079	73
b. Ambasamudram							
2. Tenkasi	92	--	11	35	242	64	24
3. Sengottai	23	--	5	6	49	201	10
4. Sankarankoil	99	--	10	25	292	360	11
5. Sivagiri	2	--	2	6	6	42	4
Total	313	213	83	214	1678	3746	112

(*) Split up figures are not available.

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd...)

Details of Post offices, Telegraph offices and Telephone connections as on 31st March 1976.

Taluks	*Postal facilities*					*Telephones*	
	Post and Telegraph offices		*Telegraph offices*	*No. of postmen*	*No. of letter boxes*	*No. of Telephones*	*No. of public call offices*
	Depart-mental	*Extra Depart-mental*					
1. Ambasamudram	79		55	142	1090	3080	73
2. Nanguneri	119	213	--	--	--	--	--
3. Tirunelveli	93		--	--	--	--	--
4. Tenkasi	85		28	72	589	667	39
Total	376	213	83	214	1679	3747	112

Source : Post Master General, Madras Divisional Telegraph Office, Tirunelveli & Virudunagar figure relates 1976-77.

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd...)

Details of Post offices, Telegraph offices and Telephone connections as on 31st March 1976.

Taluks	Postal facilities					Telephones	
	Post and Telegraph offices		Telegraph offices	No. of postmen	No. of letter boxes	No. of Telephones	No. of public call offices
	Depart-mental	Extra Depart-mental					
1. Tenkasi	23	68	10	31	190	602	31
2. Sankarankoil	18	87	7	23	195	390	25
3. Shencottai	8	13	4	9	87	175	8
4. Sivagiri	1	8	1	2	25	15	8
5. Tirunelveli	60	210	60	84	830	2425	85
6. Nanguneri	9	116	11	25	310	175	27
7. Ambasamudram	27	107	29	30	429	335	15

APPENDIX-3

The list of post offices (with pincodes) in Tirunelveli Postal Division

Tirunelveli H.O.	627 001
Palayamkottai	627 002
Vannarpettai	627 003
Tirunelveli Pettai	627 004
Melapalayam	627 005
Tirunelveli town	627 006
Perumalpuram	627 007
Gandhinagar (TVL)	627 008
Tirunelveli Collectorate	627 009
Industrial Colony Pettai	627 010
Maharajanagar	627 011
Dalapathisamudram	627 101
Dohnavur	627 102
Eruvadi	627 103
Idinthakarai	627 104
Kavalkinaru	627 105
Kudankulam	627 106
Mavadi	627 107
Nanguneri	627 108
Panagudi	627 109
Parappadi	627 110
Radhapuram	627 111
Samugarengapuram	627 112
Terku Kallikulam	627 113
Terku Karungulam	627 114
Tirukurungudi	627 115
Vadakkankulam	627 116
Vallioor	627 117
Vijayanarayanam	627 118
Palavoor EDSO	627 119
Kuttapuli	627 127
Ramakrishnapuram EDSO	627 129
Ellanaickanpatti	627 251
Mundradaippu	627 152
Ukkirankottai	627 202
Manur (TVL)	627 201
Gangaikondan	627 352
Kizhanatham	627 353
Burkitmanagaram	627 351
Kulaikaraipatti	627 354

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

Munanjipatti	627 355
Munirpallam	627 356
Sankarnagar	627 357
Tachanallur	627 358
Rajavallipuram	627 359
Valanad	627 252
Kalakad	627 501
Maruthakulam	627 151
Seydunganalur	627 301
Suthamally	627 604

Classified list of Post Offices
Tirunelveli Division
Palayamkottai - H.O.

Palayamkottai HO (HSG-I) Tirunelveli Division (Class-I) Palayamkottai - 627 002	627002 CO PCO	
1. Burkitmanagaram-627351	CO PCO (Phonocom)	ClassII
Kilapatam		
Melakulam		
Marudur	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Melapattam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Naduvakuruchi(PLc)	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
2. Dalapathisamudram-627101	CO PCO(Phonocom)	
Battarpuram Expt.TNClass-III 745	CO PCO	
Kananallur Exptl.TN 746	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Rajackamangalam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Thulukkarpatti E	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
3. Dohnavur-627102	CO PCO	Class II
Puliyurkurichi		
Sengalakurichi		
Vadugachimadil		
4. Ellanayankanpatti-627251	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class II

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

Aniaparanallur	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Pottalurani	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Pudupatti. Exptl.TN 1208		
Singathakurichi	CO PCO (Phonocom) Exptl.TN 781	
Vadakkukariseri E	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
5. Eruvadi 627103 LSG	CO PCO	
Nallankulam		
Kodaiseri	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Thiruvengadanathapuram		
6. Idindakarai 627104	CO PCO	Class III
Vijayapathi (Exptl.NO.TN.790)	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Kuthankuli (Exptl.No.TN 1223)	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
7. Kalakad 627501	CO PCO LSG	
Chidambarapuram		
Devanallur	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Devanallur	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Kalladichidambarapuram E Exptl.TN 121		
Kilakkukalakad (Kalakad-627501)		
Kilakaruvelangulam		
Padalayarkulam		
Padmaneri		
Pathai		
Salainainarpallivasal	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
Singampathu		
8. Kaliavoor 627253 EDSO	CO PCO (Phonocom) Exptl.TN 706	
9. Kavalkinaru 627105	CO PCO	Class II
Avaraikulam		
Kumarapuram		
Perungudi		
10. Kizhanatham 627353 E	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
Manappadaiveedu		
Thimmarajapuram		

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

11.	Kudankulam 627106	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
	Erukkanthurai	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Perumanal	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
12.	Kuttapuli 627127 E	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
13.	Mavadi 627107	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
	Naduchalaipudur		
	Kovilammalpuram		
14.	Maruthakulam 627151	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class II
	Kovaikulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Ponnagudi	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Thottagudi	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	A.Sathankulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Karupukatti		
15.	Mulaikaraipatti 627354*	CO PCO	Class-I
	Alvaneri	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Ambalam		
	Deivanayagaperi		
	paruthipadu	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
16.	Munanjipatti 627355	CO PCO	Class-II
	Chinthamani		
	Kalinguvilai		
	Kundakulam Exptl.TN 760	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Tirumalapuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
17.	Munnirpallam 627356	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
	Karungulam-Melapalayam		
	kilaomanallur		
	Taruvai	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
18.	Mundradaippu 627152	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class II
	Karandaneri	CO PCO (PhonocOom)	
	Kilakaduvetti	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Melasadayamankulam Exptl. TN 1206		
	Panankulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Sengulam	C O PCO (Phonocom)	
	Singikulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Tidiyur	CO PCO (Phono com)	
19.	Nandinagar ND	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
	Nanguneri 627108)		
20.	Nanguneri 627108*	CO PCO	LSG
	Emangulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Kadamboduvalvu	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Karankadu		
	Shenbagaramanallur	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Singaneri		
	Surangudi	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Unannkulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
21.	Palavoor 627121 EDSO	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
22.	Panagudi 627109*	CO PCO	Class-I
	Kalanthapanai		
	Pushpavanam		
23.	Parappadi 627110	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class II
	Elankulam Exptl.TN 750	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Pappankulam		
	Panrimalai		
24.	Radhapuram 627111*	CO PCO	Class I
	Chidambarapuram		
	Kakkarai	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Nakkaneri		
	Parameswarapuram		
	Udayathur		
25.	Ramakrishnapuram 627129 EDSO	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
26.	Samugarengapuram 627112	CO PCO	Class-II
	Kasthurirengapuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Kottaikarungulam Exptl.TN 759	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Seelathikulam		

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

27.	Settikulam 627124 EDSO	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
28.	Seydunganallur 6127301	CO PCO	Class-I
	Anavaradanallur Exptl.TN No.742	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Krishnapuram Exptl.TN 743	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Vittilapuram Exptl.TN 747	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
29.	Terkukallikulam 627113	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Alanginar-Tirumalapuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Moolaikadu		
	Soundarapandiapuram		
30.	Terkukarungulam 627114*	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class-II
	Jacobpuram		
	Levinjipuram		
	Rajakrishnapuram		
	Sankanap;uram		
31.	Tirukurungudi 627115	CO PCO	Class-III
	Nambithalaivanpattayam		
32.	Tiruvambalapuram 627130	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
33.	Vadakangulam 627116	CO PCO	Class-I
	Danakarkulam		
	Koliyankulam Exptl.TN 756	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Sembikulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Aralvaimozhi		
34.	Vadakkuveppilankiulam 627131 EDSO	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
35.	Vallanad 62752	CO PCO	Class-I
	Melapputhaneri		
	Murappanad	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Vasavappapuram Exptl.TN 777		
36.	Vallioor 627117*	CO PCO	LSG
	Anaikulam.eXPTL.TN 741	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Achambadu	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Kizhavaneri		

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Terkuvallioor		
	Vadalivilai		
	Valliammalpuram		
37.	Valliyoor Perundunilayam.ND. (Vallioor 627117)	CO PCO	Class-II
38.	Vijayanarayanam 627118*	CO PCO	Class-II
	Sankanankulam		
	GTerkuvijayanarayanam		
	Venkatrayapuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Vijayaachambadu		

TIRUNELVELI (IND) H.O HSG - I 627001

(Tirunelveli District)

TIRUNELVELI DIVISION (CLASS - I)

PALAYAMKOTTAI - 627002

(Madurai Region, Madurai 625002)

* * *

1.	ALAGIAPANDIAPURAM EDSO	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
2.	GANDHINAGAR 627008 TSO	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class II
	Vellalankulam		
	Seethaparpanallur E	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
3.	GANGAIKONDAN 627352	CO PCO	Class II
	Kilakottai - Kailasapuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Kodiankulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Piranjeri		
	Rajapudukkudi		
	Seliyanallur		
	Veppankulam		
4.	INDUSTRIAL COLONY PETTAI 627010	CO PCO (Phonocom) TSO	Class I
5.	JAWAHAR NAGAR ND TSO (Tirunelveli 627007)	PCO	Class III

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

6.	KAILASAPURAM	ND TSO	Class III
	Tirunelveli-627001		
7.	KULAVANICKERPURAM	ND TSO PCO	Class III
	(Tirunelveli 627002)		
	Pudupet - Palayamkottai	ND TBO	
8.	MADURAI ROAD	ND TSO Class III	
	(Tirunelveli 627001)		
	Sindupoondurai	ND TBO	
	(Tirunelveli-627001)		
9.	MAHARAJA NAGAR 627011	CO PCO LSG	TSO
	Vijayaraghavam Chatram-Exptl	TN. 1220	
10.	MANUR 627201	CO PCO Class I	
	Ettankulam		
	Kalakudi	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Kanarpatti		
	Kattarankulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Madhavakurichi		
	Mavadi - Manur E		
	Pilliayarkulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Terkupatti	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
11.	MINATCHIPURAM	ND TSO PCO	Class III
	(Tirunelveli 627001)		
	Sikkanarasingayyangramam ND	TBO	
	Tirunelveli 627001		
12.	MELAPALAYAM 627005	* LSG CO PCO	TSO
13.	MELAPALAYAM BAZAAR (Tirunelveli - 627005)	ND TSO	Class III
	Hameempuram	ND TBO (Tirunelveli - 627005)	
	Kurichi	ND TBO (Tirunelveli - 627005)	
14.	MURUGANKURICHI	ND TSO PCO	Class II
	(Tirunelveli - 627002)		
15.	PALAYAMKOTTAI HIGH GROUNDS		
	(Tirunelveli-627011)	ND TSO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

16.	PALAYAMKOTTAI KORI (Tirunelveli - 627002)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
17.	PALAYAMKOTTAI VADAKKU (Tirunelveli-627002)	ND TSO PCO	Class II
	Palayamkottai Market (Tirunelveli - 627002)	ND TBO	
	Rajakudiyiruppu (Tiuunelveli - 627002)	ND TBO	
18.	PERUMALPURAM - 627007 *	TSOCO PCO	LSG
	Konganthanparai	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
19.	RAJAVALLIPURAM - 627359 *	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Palamadai		Class III
	Pappiahpuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
20.	REDDIARPATTI - 620751	EDSO CO PCO (Phonocom)	
21.	SAMADHANAPURAM (Tirunelveli - 627002)	ND TSO Class III	
22.	SANKARNAGAR - 627357 *	CO PCO	
	Karaieruppu		
	Nanjankulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Naranammalpuram		
	Pallikottai		
	Tenkulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
23.	SIVALAPERI - 627361	EDSO CO PCO (Phonocom)	
24.	SUTTAMALLY - 627604	CO PCO (Phonocom)	Class III
	Narasinganallur		
25.	TACHANALLUR - 627358	CO PCO Class I	
	Azhaganeri		
	Ramayaanpatti		
	Sethurayanputhur E		
26.	TIRUNELVELI BAZAAR (Tirunelveli - 627006)	ND TSO	Class III

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

27.	TIRUNELVELI COLLECTORATE 627009	TSOCO PCO	LSG
28.	TIRUNELVELI EAST (Tirunelveli - 627006)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
29.	TIRUNELVELI MERKU (Tirunelveli 627006)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
	Palayapettai (Tirunelveli - 627008)	ND TBO CO PCO (Phonocom)	
30.	TIRUNELVELI NAGAR MANDRAM (Tirunelveli - 627001)	ND TSO	Class III
31.	TIRUNELVELI PETTAI - 627004 *	CO PCO TSO	LSG
	Kallur	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Kiramangalam		
	Kodaganallur		
	Tiruppanikarisalkulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
	Vaduganpatti		
32.	TIRUNELVELI PETTAI EAST ND (Tirunelveli - 627004)	TSO	Class III
33.	TIRUNELVELI RS (Tirunelveli - 627001)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
34.	TIRUNELVELI TERKU (Tirunelveli - 627006)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
	Pattapathu	ND TBO - (Tirunelveli-627006)	
35.	TIRUNELVELI TOWN - 627006 *	CO PCO TSG	HSG.II
	Kunnathur - Tirunelveli		
	Melathiruvengadanathapuram	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
36.	TONDAR BAZAAR (Tirunelveli - 627006)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
	Rajajipuram (Tirunelveli - 627006)	ND TBO	

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

37.	UKKIRANKOTTAI - 627202 *	CO PCO	Class II
	Kaduvetti		
	Vagaikulam	CO PCO (Phonocom)	
38.	VANNARPETTAI - 627003	TSO *CO PCO LSG	
39.	VANNARPETTAI BAZAAR (Tirunelveli - 627003)	ND TSO PCO	Class III
40.	VIRARAGHAVAPURAM (Tirunelveli - 627001)	ND TSO PCO	Class III

Total Number of Departmental Sub-offices 37

Total Number of Extra Departmental Sub-offices 3

Total Number of Extra Departmental Branch Offices 48

1. OFFICES HAVING DEVANAGARI TELEGRAPH FACILITIES

1.	Nanguneri	LSG	SO
2.	Tirunelveli Town	HSG. II	SO
3.	Vallioor	LSG	SO

2. NAME OF TOWNS WHERE THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE DELIVERY OFFICES

TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

1.	Tirunelveli Ind	627001
2.	Palayamkottai	627002
3.	Vannarpettai	627003
4.	Tirunelveli Pettai	627004
5.	Melapalayam	627005
6.	Tirunelveli Town	627006
7.	Perumalpuram	627007
8.	Gandhinagar	627008
9.	Tirunelveli Collectorate	627009
10.	Industrial Colony Pettai	627010
11.	Maharaja Nagar	627011

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

Category	Palayamkottai HO			Tirunelveli Ind HO		
	Dely	ND	Total	Dely	ND	Total
HSG Offices	1	–	1	2	–	2
LSG Offices	4	–	4	7	–	7
Clsss I Offices	6	–	6	3	–	3
Class II Offices	12	1	13	3	2	5
Class III Offices	8	1	9	2	19	21
TOTAL	31	2	33	17	21	38
E.D Sub Offices	6	–	6	3	–	3
E.D Branch Offices	113	1	114	38	10	48
Grand Total	150	3	153	58	31	89

Ambasamudram Sub-division

1. Alwarkurichi 627412 CO/P (Cl.I)
   Katana Anaithitttam
   Merkualwarkurichi NDBO
   Sambankulam P.PH
   Sivasailam P,PH
2. Ambalavanapuram ND Cl.II
   P.PH (Delivery from
   Vikramasingapuram 627425).
   Uchankulam – NDBO
3. Ambasamudram Angadi TSO
   Cl.III P.PH.
   (Delivery from Ambasamudram H.O)
4. Ambasamudram East T.S.O. ND P/PH (Cl.II)
   (Delivery from Ambasamudram HO)

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

5.	Ambasamudram Pothukudi 627435 EDSO	P, PH
6.	Avadaiyanur 627431 EDSO P.PH	
7.	Brammadesam 627413 Cl.III P.PH.	
	Adaichani	P,PH
	Mannarkoil	P,PH
	Rengasamudram	P,PH
8.	Cheranmahadevi 627414 LSG SO CO, P	
	Cheranmahadevi R.S. –	N DBO
	(Dely.from Cheranmahadevi)	
	Karisalpatti	P,PH
	Thiruviruthanpuli	P,PH
9.	Gopalasamudram 627451 CL. III. CO, P.	
10.	Idaikal 627821 EDSO	P,PH.
11.	Kadayam 627415 LSG	CO/P
	Koviluthur TN 278 B	P,PH
	Mathapuram	P,PH
	Poolangulam	P,PH
	Pungampatti	P,PH
	Servaikaranpatti	P,PH
	Venkatampatti	P,PH
12.	Kallidaikurichi 627416 LSG P.	
	Agasthiarpatti	TN 281
	Kodarankulam	
	Pottal	P,PH
	Sattupattu	
	Singampatti	
	Therkupapankulam	
	Urkad (Delivery from	
	Ambasamudram HO)	
	Vairavikulam	P,PH
	Kottaitheru	E TN

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

13.	Karaikurichi 627417 Cl.III	P,PH.
	Kuniyur	P,PH
14.	Kilaambur 627418 Cl.II	P,PH
	Ayanthiruvaleeswaram	P,PH
	Karuthapillaiyur	P,PH
15.	Manimuthar Project 627421	Cl.II CO/P
	Aladiyur	P,PH
16.	Manjolai 627420 Cl.III	P,PH
17.	Melaseval 627452 Cl.II CO/P	
18.	Mettur 627436 EDSO P/	
19.	Mukkudal 627601 Cl.I/P	
	Mukkudal Vadakku NDBO	
	Sadayappapuram NDBO (delivery from Mukkudal	
	Singampaai	P/PH
20.	Nalumukku 627420 Cl.III	
	Kodayar Melthangal	
	Oothu E TN 279	
21.	Pappagudi Cl.II	P/PH 627802
	Kabaliparai	
	Odaimarichan	P.PH
	Thulakkapatti	
22.	Papanasam Project Cl.III	CO/P 627 551.
	Papanasam Upper Dam	
	Servalar Camp	P.PH
23.	Papanasam Mills 627422 Cl.I	P/PH
24.	Pattamadai 627453 Cl.II	CO/P
	Karisulthanmangalam	

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

25.	Potalpudur 627423 Cl.II	P/PH
	Ananjaperumal Nadanur	
	Mudaliarpatti	
	Pappangulam	
	Therkumadathur	
	Thuppakudi	P/PH
	Theertharappapuram	P/PH
26.	Ravanasamudram 627424 CO P Cl.II	
	Govindaperi	
	Manthiyur	
27.	Sivandipuram, Nd Edso	P,PH
	(Vickramasingapuram LSG SO)	
28.	Vadakku Ariyanayagipuram Pettai 627603 Cl.III	P,PH
29.	Vickramasingapuram 627425 LSG SO CO/P	
	Tana NDBO (Delivery from Vickramasingapuram)	
30.	Viravanallur 627426 LSG CO/ P	
	Attalanallur	
	Harikesavanalur	P,PH
	Kilakulam ND (Delivery from Viravanalur)	
	Thiruppudaimarudur	•P,PH
	Vellankuli	P,PH
	<u>Summary</u>	
	Total Nol.of DSOs.	25
	Total No.of EDSOs	5
	Total No.of BOs.	55

	Kovilpatti H.O.	**HSG-I 628501**
1.	Ilayarasanendal 627713	Cl.III P,PH
	Aiyaneri	P,PH
	Kulakkattakurichi	

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Maipparai	P,PH
	Sippiparai	P,PH
2.	Kadalal 628725	EDSO P/PH
3.	Kadambur 628714	Cl.I, P/PO
	Ahilandapuram	P,PH
	Kapulingampatti	P,PH
	Kottali	
	Kuppanapuram	
	Kurumalai	P,PH
	Tennampatti	P,PH
	Vadakkuvandanam	P,PH
4.	Kalingapatti 627724	EDSO P,PH
5.	Kayathar 628952	Cl.I Co/P
	Athikulam	P,PH
	Murtheeswaram	
	Pannikujlam	P,PH
	Terku Ilandaikulam	P,PH
	Vellalankottai	P,PH.
6.	Tiruvengadam 627719 CO	Cl.II P
	Kurinjakulam	
	Umaithalaivanpatti	P,PH
	Vellakulam	P,PH
	Alagapuri	P,PH
	Karisalkulam	P,PH
	Chatrapatti	
	Sankarankoil HO 627756	HSG-II
1.	Sankarankoil HO	627756
	Alkondarkulam	
	Kalapakulam	
	Mo-marudappapuram TN 1146	P,PH

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Kurukkalpatti	P,PH
	Manalur	
	Periakovilankulam	P,PH
	Perumbattur	P,PH
	Perungotur	
	Poigai	TN 280
	Ramanathapuram (SNL)	
	Sathirakondan	P,PH
	Sri Gomathipuram	
	Vadakupudur	
2.	Athuvazhi 627760	Cl.III P/PH
	Gudalur	P,PH
	Narunapuram	
	Ramanathapuram (VSD)	P,PH
3.	Devarkulam 627951 Class II	P/PH
	Ayyanaruthu	P/PH
	Chockanatchiarpuram	
	Mela Ilandaikulam	P,PH
	Muvirundali	
	North Achampatti	P,PH
	Muthammalpuram E TN 283	
4.	Karivalamvandanallur Cl.I CO/P 627 753	
	Karisathan	P,PH
	Kuvalaikannai	P,PH
	Kulasekaraperi	
	Pandapuli	P,PH
	Paruvakudi	
	Reddiapatti	P,PH
	Senthattiapuram	P,PH
	Sinnikulam	P,PH
	Subbulapuram	P,PH
	Perumalpatti	P,PH
5.	Kuruvikulam 627754 Cl.In CO/P	
	Alangulam	P,PH
	Alagunatchiarpuram	P,PH

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Azhaganeri	
	Chidambarapuram	P,PH
	Sevalkulam	P,PH
	Vagaikulam	P,PH
6.	Melanilidanallur 627953 Cl.II	P/PH
	Balabthararamapuram	P,PH
	Kilanilidanallur	P,PH
	Maruthankinar	P,PH
	Marukkalangulam	P,PH
	Melanarigudi	
7.	Mullikulam 627755 Cl.II	P/PH
	Malayadikurichi	
	Nagaram	P,PH
	Nochikulam	
	Ramasamiapuram	P,PH
	Vadamalapuram	P,PH
	Veeriruppu	P,PH
8.	Panaiyur 627761	Cl.III P,PH
	Gomathimuthupuram	P,PH
	Periyhur	P,PH
9.	Panavadalichatram 627956 EDSOP,PH	
10.	Puliyangudi 627855	LSG CO/P
	Ayyapuram	P,PH
	Punniahpuram	P,PH
	Thiruvettanallur	
11.	Royagiri 627764 EDSO	P,PH
12.	Sankarankovil Bazaar ND Cl.II	TSO P,PH.
	(Delivery from Sankarankovil HO)	
13.	Serndamangalam 627857 Cl.II CO/P	
	lohanda	P,PH
	Thannujthu	P,PH

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Thirumalapuram	P,PH
	Uthangulam	P,PH
	Valasai	P,PH
	Vellalankulam	P,PH
14.	Sivagiri (TVL) 627757 LSG	CO/P
	Devipatnam	
	Arugankulam	P,PH
	Duraisamipuram	P,PH
	Inam Kovilpatti	
	Sivagiri South ND BO	
	Delivery from Sivagiri SO)	
	Vadugapatti	P,PH
15.	Tenmalai EDSO 627770	P,PH
16.	Thalaivankottai EDSO 627773	P,PH
17.	Thirumalainaicken Puthukudi ND TSO P/PH	Cl.III
	Chindamani ND	P,PH
	Puliyangudi Bazaar ND TBO (Delivery from Puliyangudi LSG SO)	
18.	Uthumalai 627860 Cl.II	CO/P
	Karuvanda	P,PH
	Kilakalangal	P,PH
	Melamarudappapuram	P,PH
	Melakalangal	P,PH
	Rukmaniammalpuram	
19.	Vasudevanallur 627758 Cl.I	CIO/P
	Ariyur	
	Nelkattumseval	P,PH
	Sanganaperi	
	Vellanaikottai	P,PH
20.	Vannikonendal EDSO 627954	P,PH
21.	Virasigamani 627862 Cl.II	P,PH

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

	Ariyanagipuram SNL)	P,PH
	Kilavirasigamani	
	Naduvakurichi	P,PH
	Pambukovilshandy	P,PH
	Vadanathampatti	P,PH
	Kulasekaramangalam	P,PH
23.	Viswanathaperi EDSO 627763	P/PH

<u>Tenkasi HO 627811n HsG-II</u>

1.	Achanpudur EDSO 627801	P,PH
2.	Alangulam (TVL) 627851 Cl.I	
	Alangulam Bazaar ND	P,PH
	Andipatti	
	Kalathimadam	
	Kuthapanjan	P,PH
	Marandai	P,PH
	Maruthamputhur	P,PH
	Pudupatti	P,PH
	Pudur	P,PH
3.	Ayikudi 627852 Cl.II	CO/P
	Agarakattu	P,PH
	Kilangad	
	Urmelalagian	P,PH
4.	Chockampatti EDSO	P,PH
5.	Courtallam 627802 Cl.I	Co/P
	1.Kasimajorpuram ND (Dely.from Courtallam)	P,PH
6.	Courtallam Bus Stand ND Cl.III (Delivery from Courtallam 627802)	
7.	Elathur 627803 Cl.II	P,PH
	Kanakkupillaivalasai	P,PH
	Kuthukalavalasai	

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

8.	Idaikal (TKS) 627804 Cl.II	P,PH
	Kodikurichi	
	Nainaragaram	P,PH
9.	Ilanji 627805 Cl.II	CO/P
	Ayyapuram	
	Kottakulam	
10.	Kadayanallur 627751	LSG
	Boganallur	
	Kambapacheri	P,PH
	Kasidharmam	P,PH
	Kumunthapuram	
	Mangalapuram	P,PH
	Sundaresapuram	
	Mavadikal ND	P,PH
	Melakadayanallur	P,PH
	Muthukrishnapuram ND	P,PH
11.	Kadayanalur Bazaar ND Cl.III	P,PH
	(Delivery from Kadayanallur)	
12.	Kadayanallur Pettai ND Cl.III	P,PH
	(Delivery from Kadayanalur)	
13.	Kilapavur 627806 Cl.II	CO/P
	Kulasekarapatti	
	Melapavur	P,PH
	EJpNSI	P,PH
	CwllkL	P,PH
14.	Kizhauliyur 627814 Cl.II	P,PH
	Ayiraperi	
	Gunaramanallur	P,PH
	Kadabokathi	
	Mathalamparai	P,PH
	Pattakurichi	
15.	Krishnapuram (TVL) CO/P Cl.II 627759	
16.	Melagaram 627818 EDSO	P,PH

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

17.	Nallur 627853 Cl.II	P,PH
	Ayyanarkulam	
	Kuruvankottai	P,PH
	Mayamankurichi	
	Sivalarkulam	
18.	Nettur 627854 Cl.II	P,PH
	Kavalakurichi	P,PH
	Kidanganeri	
	Kidaragulam	P,PH
19.	Panpoli 627807 Cl.III	P,PH
	Karisalkudiyiruppu	
20.	Pavoorchatram 627808 Cl.I	CO/P
	Adaikalapatnam	P,PH
	Pethanadarpatti	P,PH
	Sivanadanur	P,PH
	Thippanampatti	
21.	Puliyarai 627813 Cl.III	P,PH
	Karkudi	P,PH
	Katalaikudiyiruppu	P,PH
	Poolankudiyiruppu	
22.	Sambavarvadakarai 627	Cl.III CO/P
	Poigai	P,PH
23.	Melur ND BO	(Dely.from Sengottai)
24.	Sengottai R.S. 627810 Cl.III	P,PH
	Periapillaivalasai	
	Thenpothai	
25.	Sundarapandiapuram CO Cl.III/I 62858	
26.	Surandai 627859 Cl.I	P/CO
	Anaikulam	P,PH
	Bangalow Surandai	
	Menakshipuram	
	Kulayaneri	
	Sivagjurunathapuram NDP	
	Delivery from Surandai)	
	Kadayalurutti	P,PH
	Parankiuntrapuram	P,PH

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

27.	Tenkasi R.S. Cl.II ND TSO (Dely. from Tenkasi HO)	P,PH
28.	Vadakarai 627812 Clk.III	P,PH
	Vavanagaram	P,PH
29.	Vallam EDSO 627817	P,PH
30.	Venkateswarapuram EDSO 627867	P,PH
31.	Virakeralampudur 627861 Cl.I	CO/P
	Achankuttam	
	Kaluneerkulam	
	Rajagopalaperi	
	Vadi	
	Veeranam	P,PH

Ambasamudram Sub Division

Sl.No.	*Name of SOs.*	*Class*	*No.of BOs.*
1.	Alwarkurichi	I	4
2.	Ambalavanapuram ND	III	1
3.	Ambasamudram East ND	II	-
4.	Ambasamudram Puthukudi EDSO	-	-
5.	Ambasamudram Angadi ND	III	-
6.	Avadaiyur	EDSO	-
7.	Brahmadesam	III	-
8.	Cheranmahadevi	LSG	3
9.	Gopalasamudram	III	-
10.	Idaikal	EDSO	-
11.	Kadayam	LSG	6
12.	Kallidaikurichi	LSG	9
13.	Karaikurichi	III	1
14.	Kilambur	II	2
15.	Manimuthar Project	II	1
16.	Manjolai	III	-
17.	Melaseval	III	-
18.	Mettur	EDSO	-

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

19.	Mukkudal	I	3
20.	Nalumukku	III	2
21.	Papanasam Mills	I	
22.	Papanasam Project	III	2
23.	Papagudi	II	3
24.	Pattamadai	II	1
25.	Pottalpudur	II	6
26.	Ravanasamudram	II	2
27.	Sivandipuram	EDSO	NL
28.	Vadakku Ariyanayagipuram	III	-
29.	Viravanallur	LSG	5
30.	Vickramasingapuram	LSG	1

SUMMARY

Total No.of S.Os..	25
Total No.of B.Os.	55
Total No.of EDSOs.	5

Sankarankoivil Sub Division

1.	Athuvazhi	III	3
2.	Karivalamvandanallur	I	10
3.	Mullikulam	II	6
4.	Melanilidanallur	II	5
5.	Panaiyur	III	2
6.	Panavadalichat ram	EDSO	
7.	Puliangudi	LSG	3
8.	Royagiri	EDSO	
9.	Sankarankoil BR	III	
10.	Sankarankoil HO	HO	13
11.	Sivagiri (TVL)	LSG	6
12.	Tenmalai	EDSO	
13.	Thalaivankottai	EDSO	
14.	T.N.Puthukudi	III	2
15.	Uthumalai	II	5
16.	Vasudevanallur	I	4
17.	Virasigamani	II	6

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

18.	Viswanathaperi	EDSO	
19.	Serndamangalam	II	6
	Summary		
	Total No.of SOs.	13	
	Total No.of EDSOs.	5	
	Total No.of BOs.	71	

Tenkasi Sub Division

1.	Achanpudur	EDSO	
2.	Ayikudi	II	3
3.	Chockampatti	EDSO	
4.	Courtallam	I	
5.	Courtakllkam Bus Stand	III	
6.	Elathur	II	
7.	Idaikal (TKS)	II	2
8.	Ilanji	II	2
9.	Kadayanallur	LSG	9
10.	Kadayanallur Bazaar ND	III	
11.	Kadayanallur Pettai ND	III	
12.	Kilapavoor	II	4
13.	Kilapuliyur	II	5
14.	Krishnapuram (TVL)	II	
15.	Melagaram	EDSO	
16.	Panpuli	III	1
17.	Pavoorchatram	I	4
18.	Puliyarai	III	3
19.	Sambuvadakarai	III	1
20.	Sengottai	LSG	3
21.	Sengottai Cutcherry ND	III	1
22.	Sengottai R.S.	III	2
23.	Sundarapandiapuram	III	
24.	Surandai	I	7
25.	Tenkasi R.S. ND	II	
26.	Vadakarai	III	1
27.	Vallam	DSO	
28.	Virakeralampudur	I	5

APPENDIX-3 (Contd.)

SUMMARY

Total No.lof SOs.	23
Total N o.of EDSOs.	4
Total No.of B.Os.	56

Sub Divisionwise list of post offices in Kovilpatti division.

		SOs.	EDSOs	BOs.
1.	Ambasamudram Sub Dn	25	5	55
2.	Kovilpatti East Sub Dn.	15	4	68
3.	Kovilpatti West Sub Dn.	13	4	71
4.	Sankarankovil Sub Dn.	13	5	71
5.	Tenkasi Sub Dn.	23	4	56
	Total	**89**	**22**	**321**

Total: 432 + 4 = 436.

E	Experimental	ND	No delivery office
TSO	Town Sub Office	CO	Combined office
TBO	Town Branch Office	PCO	Public Call Office.

APPENDIX - 4

Details of Telegraph Traffic Handled, since 1991 to 1996 are as follows

	1991-92	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*
1. No.of telegrams booked.	542233	570698	598775	220722	254293
2. No.of transit telegrams.	1263927	1406003	1303552	333086	197892
3. No.of telegrams delivered.	456132	478344	473374	180608	177607
4. No.of complaints received.	97	98	80	26	9
5. No.of complaints per 100 telegrams.	17	17	13	11	03
6. Revenue realised	5814528	6475990	6819992	2360781	4295179

APPENDIX - 5

Growth of Tirunelveli S.S.A.

Year	*Capacity*	*Working Connections*	*No.of Exchanges.*
84-85	6195	5858	35
85-86	6565	6225	35
86-87	10499	9540	76
87-88	10100	9068	58
88-89	11115	9978	59
89-90	11390	10381	59
90-91	12668	11337	59
91-92	14402	12627	60
92-93	19964	14969	60
93-94	24508	20492	60
94-95	33700	27645	62

The list of Telephone Exchanges; their capacity working connections and persons in waiting list as on 31- March 1995.

Sl.	*Name of the Exchange.*	*Sub - Division*	*Capa city*	*Wkg conns*	*Wait List*
1.	Alamanaickarpatti	Sankarankoil	56	27	20
2.	Alangulam	Tenkasi	192	159	176
3.	Alwarkurichi	Ambasamudram	88	77	68
4.	Ambasamudram	Ambasamudram	1400	1075	169
5.	Avadaiyanoor	Tenkasi	96	74	54
6.	Burkitmanagaram	Tirunelveli	88	83	45
7.	Cheranmahadevi	Ambasamudram	424	351	118
8.	Chettikulam	Valliyoor	56	39	74
9.	Devarkulam	Sankarankoil	56	29	15
10.	Eruvadi	Valliyoor	568	362	128
11.	Gangaikondan	Tirunelveli	88	70	29

APPENDIX - 5 (Contd.)

12.	Idaikal	Sankarankoil	184	148	7
13.	Ittamozhi	Valliyoor	88	30	52
14.	Kadayam	Ambasamudram	288	257	116
15.	Kadayanallur	Sankarankoil	1400	1330	20
16.	Kalakad	Valliyoor	384	315	84
17.	Kalingapatti	Sankarankoil	184	88	1
18.	Karivalamvandanallur	Sankarankoil	184	87	72
19.	Koodankulam	Valliyoor	88	76	63
20.	Kurukkalpatti	Sankarankoil	88	52	24
21.	Manur	Tirunelveli	88	51	20
22.	Maranthai	Ambasamudram	56	19	19
23.	Marudhakulam	Valliyoor	88	35	27
24.	Melaseval	Ambasamudram	56	34	25
25.	Moolakaraipatti	Valliyoor	88	80	36
26.	Mukkudal	Ambasamudram	160	151	61
27.	Nanguneri	Valliyoor	192	161	32
28.	Navaladi	Valliyoor	56	47	33
29.	Palayamkottai	Tirunelveli	7060	6036	957
30.	Pambukoil shandy	Sankarankoil	56	53	11
31.	Panagudi	Valliyoor	192	177	98
32.	Panankulam	Valliyoor	56	26	16
33.	Parapadi	Valliyoor	56	47	23
34.	Pavoorchatram	Tenkasi	288	239	142
35.	Pazhavoor	Valliyoor	88	16	34
36.	Puliangudi	Sankarankoil	1000	743	32
37.	Puliarai	Tenkasi	56	52	15
38.	Radhapuram	Valliyoor	184	78	49
39.	Ramakrishnapuram	Valliyoor	56	31	10
40.	Samugarengapuram	Valliyoor	272	137	101

APPENDIX - 5 (Contd.)

41.	Sankarankoil	Sankarankoil	1400	1354	60
42.	Sankarnagar	Ambasamudram	500	447	101
43.	Sendamaram	Sankarankoil	88	64	46
44.	Senkulam	Ambasamudram	56	41	34
45.	Shencottai	Tenkasi	768	742	95
46.	Sivagiri	Sankarankoil	160	145	37
47.	Surandai	Tenkasi	368	287	127
48.	Tenkasi	Tenkasi	2400	2238	112
49.	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	7800	6112	533
50.	Tiruvengadam	Sankarankoil	184	144	13
51.	Tisayanvilai	Valliyoor	500	415	108
52.	Thulukkapatti	V alliyoor	56	44	–
53.	Uthumalai	Sankarankoil	88	76	32
54.	Uvari	Valliyoor	88	71	24
55.	Vadakarai	Tenkasi	184	124	91
56.	Vadakkankujlam	Valliyoor	288	268	160
57.	Valliyoor	Valliyoor	1000	927	91
58.	Vasudevanallur	Sankarankoil	160	156	74
59.	Veerakeralampudur	Tenkasi	56	47	47
60.	Veeravanallur	Ambasamduram	240	204	11
61.	Venkateswarapuram	Ambasamudram	88	57	51
62.	Vickramasingapuram	Ambasamudram	1000	740	64
	Total		**33700**	**27645**	**5010**

APPENDIX - 6

Statistics on Type of Vehicles Registered from 1975 -1980

Details	*Year*	*Private cars*	*Taxi*	*Jeep*	*Buses*	*Trucks*	*Other Public*	*Motor cycle Vehicles*	*Auto-ricksha*	*Others*
Number of vehicles registered	1975-76	--	516	2461	532	140	1255	2590	67	251
upto the previous year.	1976-77	83	531	2471	552	214	1283	2885	77	268
	1977-78	255	562	2490	567	279	1449	3081	89	911
	1978-79	322	391	2499	579	300	1516	3374	119	1261
	1979-80	454	652	2534	602	389	1646	3815	251	1859
No.of vehicles registered during	1975-76	83	15	10	20	74	28	295	10	17
	1976-77	172	31	19	15	65	165	196	12	643
	1977-78	67	29	9	12	21	67	293	5	350
	1978-79	132	614	35	23	89	130	441	25	598
	1979-80	114	71	24	11	105	149	504	20	45
Total number of vehicles	1975-76	83	531	2471	552	214	1283	2885	77	268
registered at the end of the year	1976-77	255	562	2490	567	279	1449	3081	89	911
	1977-78	322	591	2499	579	300	1516	3514	94	1261
	1978-79	454	652	2534	602	709	1646	3815	119	1839
	1979-80	568	723	2558	613	494	1795	4319	139	1904

APPENDIX - 7

Number of driving licences issued

Year	Number of driving licences issued upto the previous year			Number of Licences renewed during the year			Number of Licences used during the year (cumulative)		
	Professional	Owner	Learner	Professional	Owner	Learner	Professional	Owner	Learner
1975-76	1033	428	3529	2206	806	---	3239	1234	3529
1976-77	3239	1234	3529	1498	589	4609	4737	1823	8138
1977-78	4737	1823	8138	1403	631	4898	6100	2454	13036
1978-79	6140	2454	13036	1400	861	5215	7540	3315	16341
1979-80	7540	3315	18251	3847	1643	5157	15591	7626	23408

APPENDIX - 8

No.of passengers travelled in KTC Buses since 1983-84 to 1995-96

Sl.No.	*Year*	*Passengers travelled (in lakhs)*
1.	1983-84	1284-78
2.	1984-85	1433-21
3.	1985-86	1588-79
4.	1986-87	1763-97
5.	1987-88	1882-15
6.	1988-89	2124-49
7.	1989-90	2446-65
8.	1990-91	2560-57
9.	1991-92	2473-72
10.	1992-93	2578-96
11.	1993-94	2695-80
12.	1994-95	2877-29
13.	1995-96	2689-15

Statistics as to the total number of accidents and the persons lost and compensations paid - by KTC since 1987 to 1994.

Sl.No.	*Year*	*Accidents*	*Dead*	*Compensation paid (Rs. in lakhs)*
1.	1987	427	61	74.96
2.	1988	598	53	57.43
3.	1989	1178	61	53.18
4.	1990	1063	81	64.41
5.	1991	690	83	101.96
6.	1992	777	115	81.13
7.	1993	902	144	79.53
8.	1994	1105	145	134.19

APPENDIX - 8 (Contd.)

Statistics on the income derived by K.T.C.

Year	*Operational income*	*Non-operational Income (Rs. in lakhs)*	*Reimbursement on students concession*	*Total*
1983-84	1683.14	53.45	–	1736.59
1984-85	1948.65	41.23	9.21	1999.09
1985-86	2471.49	99.24	–	2570.73
1986-87	2776.36	71.67	–	2848.03
1987-88	3112.55	94.27	–	3208.82
1988-89	3559.32	78.59	–	3637.91
1989-90	4102.83	126.40	–	4229.23
1990-91	4448.18	135.37	–	4583.55
1991-92	5073.31	113.13	100.16	5286.60
1992-93	5896.07	101.63	117.88	6115.58
1993-94	6488.59	95.69	229.66	6813.94
1994-95	7517.80	211.63	125.19	7854.62
1995-96	7517.80	211.63	125.19	7854.62

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CHAPTER-8

ECONOMIC TRENDS AND MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The Economy of the Tirunelveli district is mainly agriculture oriented and it has vast agricultural resources supplemented by moderate forest, livestock and sericulture resources.[1] The district is blessed with the western ghats from which all the perennial rivers flow towards east and discharge water into the Bay of Bengal of the district is drained into major river basins *viz.,* Tamiraparani (Porunai), Vaippar, Pachaiyar, Nambiar and Hanumanathi. The Tamiraparani is the major river basin in the district.

Tirunelveli district which is industrially developing has potentials for further industrial development. The Government have declared Radhapuram, Tenkasi and Sankarankoil taluks as most backward taluks and others as backward taluks. There are 16 medium and major industries such as, cement, cotton yarn, calcium carbide, cotton seed oil, printing paper and flour mills. In addition to this , there are 1007 small scale industries in this district which are employing 30, 116 persons.[2]

This district has a well developed banking system with a network of 230 branches of various banks of which 121 branches belong to Public Sector banks, 24 to Private sector, 49 to Pandian Grama Bank. 20 to Tamil Nadu Central Co-operative Bank Limited, eight Land Development bank, six Urban Co-operative Bank,and one each to Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC) and one to Tamil Nadu Industrial Cooperative Bank (TAICO). TheTirunelveli Central Cooperative Bank has 20 branches with 172 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies affiliated to it. The average population per branch office in the district is around 11500 which compares favourably with the National average of 13000 which State average of 12000 per branch. After the introduction of the new concept of Service Area Approach since 1st April 1989 all the villages in 19 blocks have been allocated to 155 bank branches operating in rural and semi urban areas in the district. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) an apex bank in agriculture and rural development plays an important role in the development of the district.

Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai are popularly known as South Indian Oxford. All types of colleges and schools with historical background are functioning in these twin towns and the district enjoys the reputation as a centre of learning for the past hundred years. As per the District Statistical Department the literacy is 49 per cent of the total population and Arivoli Iyakkam(Total Literacy Campaign) is functioning since 21 November 1991 to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the district. As many as 1519 primary schools 389 middle schools and 165 higher secondary schools continue to

provide basic education. There are 17 Arts/Science colleges besides Medical and Engineering colleges (two each), Law College, Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and Polytechnics in the district.[3]

The district is also known for its tourist importance with the famous Courtallam falls, Nelliappar temple at Tirunelveli, the temples at Sankarankoil, Papanasam and Tenkasi. Manimuthar and Papanasam dams and the famous Kalakad-Mundanthurai sanctuaries have bestowed the status of important tourist centres to this district.

Working Population

For the purpose of economic activity the population is divided into three categories, *viz*., main workers, marginal workers and non-workers. A person is considered as a main worker, if he has worked for major part of the year,i.e. six months (183 days) or more, during the reference period of one year preceding the day of enumeration. If a person has not worked for the major part of the year, but worked for less than six months or 183 days during the last one year preceding the day of enumeration, he is considered as marginal worker. A person who had not at all worked even for a day of enumeration was considered as non-worker. Out of the population of 25,01,326 in the district as per 1991 census, 11,80,369 are workers, consisting of 11,06,043 main workers and 74,326 marginal workers. The rest i.e.1320957 are non-workers. The work participation rate (WPR) i.e. the percentage of total workers to the total population of the district is 47.18 per cent in 1991, while 52.82 per cent of the population are non-workers. The main workers and marginal workers form 44.21 per cent and 2.97 per cent of the total population respectively.[4]

In the case of males, the work participation rate which was 54.85 per cent in 1981, has slightly gone down to 54.38 per cent, while female work participation rate has considerably increased from 33.91 to 40.22 per cent. The female work participation rate in rural areas is increased from 47.14 per cent to 52.86 per cent. Total main workersin nine broad industrial categories, marginal workers and non-workers are given in *Appendix-1*.

Total main workers in nine broad industrial categories, marginal workers and non-workers as per centage of total population 1991, is also given in *Appendix-2*.

Household Industry engages 3.52 per cent of main workers in the State. Most of the districts have household industry workers in the ratio of 1 to 5 per cent of their main workers. Only three districts have more than 5 per cent of main workers under the category. The highest proportion under household industry workers is recorded in Tirunelveli district (15.17 per cent) where beedi rolling, palm products, etc., as household industries are major sources of livelihood for a large number of persons.[5]

Houses by types of uses

As per 1991 census, there were 7,17,780 houses in the district,of which 5,02,990 (70 per cent) of the houses were in rural areas and 214790 (30per cent) were in urban areas. Out of every 1000 houses 694 were used only for residential purposes in 1991 as against 838 in 1961. Six houses per 1000 used as shop cum residence, 100 houses were used as workshop /factory-cum-residence and four houses were used as residence in combination with other uses. Thus, in all, 804 houses were used for residential purposes of which 110 were used combinedly for certain other purposes also besides being residence. The extent of houses used for residence alone was obviously lower in the urban areas (670 per 1000) than in the rural areas (705 per 1000). It was observed that in urban centres more houses were used for business and commercial purposes besides industries, offices, hotels, shops, educational and medical institutions etc. Hence, houses under non-residential uses always constitute a higher ratio among total houses in urbans areas than in rural areas. The proportion of vacant houses in the district (82) was higher than the State proportion of 62.[6]

Categorywise use of houses in rural and urban areas are shown as below:

	Types of houses	*Total*	*Rural*	*Urban*
1.	Total No.of houses	717780	502990	214790
2.	Vacant houses	59375	43275	16100
3.	Residence	498300	354495	143805
4.	Shop-*cum*-residence	4405	3465	940
5.	Workshop/Factory-*cum*-residence including household industry.	71990	47565	24425
6.	Residence in combination with other uses.	2895	1940	955
7.	Hotels, sarais, dharmashalas, tourist houses and inspection houses.	1000	600	400
8.	Shops excluding eating houses.	20195	10860	9335
9.	Business houses and offices	3810	2100	1710

10.	Factories,workshops and work sheds.	11570	5315	6255
11.	Restarants, sweetmeat shops and eating places	4795	2845	1950
12.	Places of entertainment and community gathering	1360	930	430
13.	Places of workshops	6595	5080	1515
14.	Other non residential houses	31490	24520	6970

Number of rooms in the households

The 1991 Census shows that the majority of the households in the district occupy just a single room for living purposes. The ratio of the households having one room works out to 36.63 per cent is lower than the State ratio (53.01 per cent). The number of households having two living rooms constitute 34.02 percent which is higher than the state ratio (29.78 per cent) The households having three rooms and above, may, perhaps, be considered as living in comparatively better comfort and the households having three rooms and above constitute morethan 29 per cent of the total households of the district. About 38.36 per cent of the households in the rural areas have only one living room. Which is lower than the State ratio (57.86 per cent). In urban aeas the ratio of the households with single room is 32.53 per cent, which is comparatively lower than rural. The households with two or three rooms are more in urban areas than in rural areas. About 35.63 per cent of households have two room in the rural areas and 30.19 per cent in urban areas. The households enjoying three rooms constitute a considerably higher ratio among urban households (21.67per cent) as compared to rural households (16.98per cent). Nearly 16 per cent of urban households enjoy comfortable accommodation as these households occupy four and more rooms. In this category it is not more than nine per cent in the rural areas.[7]

The households by number of rooms occupied in rural and urban areas are tabled below[8]

Type of rooms	*Rural*		*Urban*		*Total*	
	number	*perc ent*	*number*	*perc ent*	*number*	*perc ent*
Total no. of households.	409170	100	172490	100	581660	100
No exclusive room.	5	-	-	-	5	-

One Room	156945	38.36	56105	32.53	213050	36.63
Two rooms	145785	35.63	52080	30.19	197865	34.02
Three rooms	69475	16.98	37370	21.67	106845	18.37
Four rooms	23225	5.68	15545	9.07	38770	6.66
Five rooms	8075	1.97	5920	3.43	13995	2.41
Six rooms & above.	5575	1.36	5445	3.16	11020	1.89
Inspected room.	85	0.02	25	0.01	110	0.02

Predominant materials used for walls.

It is generally known that many of the houses in the villages are built with Kutcha materials like mud, stone etc. Most of the houses in towns are built with pucca materials like burnt bricks, cement, concrete and the like. The majority of the houses, built with mud as the pre-dominant construction material of wall accounts for 41.83 per cent of all houses in rural areas and those built with burnt bricks accounts for 36.35 per cent in the district. In the urban areas, the largest number of houses have burnt bricks as wall matrial, and they account for 61.75 per cent of the total houses. Predominant material of wall in houses both rural and urban areas are tabled below:

Sl.No.	*Type of materials*	*Rural*	*Urban*
1.	Grass leaves, reeds or bamboo	2.00	1.60
2.	Mud	41.83	20.66
3.	Unburnt bricks	8.18	10.64
4.	Wood	0.44	0.53
5.	Burnt bricks	36.35	61.75
6.	GI sheets, or other metal sheets	0.05	0.20
7.	Stone	10.45	2.28
8.	Cement, concrete	0.57	2.26
9.	Ekra	-	
10.	All other materials	0.13	6.08
	All materials	100.00	100.00

Predominant materials used as roof in houses

In the rural areas, tiles, slate or shingle are used as roof materials which account for 54.40 per cent of the total houses. The materials like grass leaves, reeds, thatch, wood, mud, unburnt bricks or bamboo constitute 19.55 per cent which is the second highest ratio, of the total houses. The urban areas in the district used tiles, slate or shingle for roof accounts for 50.85 per cent and the next highest materials used for roofing materials are brick, stone and lime which is 22.49 per cent of the total houses. The other materials used in the urban area are concrete, RBC/RCC 13.65 per cent; grass leaves, reeds, thatch, wood, mud, urburnt bricks or bamboo (7.23per cent) asbestos cement sheets (1.79per cent), stone: (0.25per cent), corrugated iron,zinc or other metal sheets (1.79 per cent) and other materials not stated constitute 1.69 per cent. Predominant material used for roofs in houses both rural and urban areas are tabled below:[9]

Sl.No.	*Type of materials*	*Rural*	*Urban*
	Total houses:	100.00	100.00
1.	Grass leaves, reeds, thatch, wood, mud, unburnt brick or bamboo	19.55	7.23
2.	Tiles, slate or shingle	54.40	50.85
3.	Corrugated iron , zinc or other metal sheets.	0.65	1.29
4.	Asbestos cement sheets	1.50	20.05
5.	Brick stone and lime	16.04	22.49
6.	Concreted RBC/RCC	6.00	13.65
7.	All other materials not stated	1.68	1.69

Drinking water sources

The total number of households that use tap as source of drinking water is 297140 out of a total of 581775 households in the district which works out to 51.07 per cent of the total households. 'Well' is the second prominant source of drinking water and it serves the needs of 24.71 per cent of the total households. Put together, these two sources namely tap and well, account for 75 per cent of the total households and this signifies the importance of these two sources of drinking water. As shown in the 1981 Census, the largest per centage of households depended on well (55 per cent) and 'tap' was then only second important source with 24.69 per cent of households depending on it.[10]

Availability of toilet facilities

The prevention of a number of infectious diseases, maintenance of hygienic living conditions, particularly in urban areas and provision of public conveniences etc., contribute to the prevention of deadly disease, longevities of life, decline in the mortality rates and increase the expectation of life at birth. In this contrext, provision of *privy* or toilet facilities for any household assume significance.

In Tirunelveli district, 20 per cent of the population have toilet facility in their households. Obviously, 80 per cent of the population depend on open spaces and probably some public conveniences, as separate toilet facility is not available in their houses. This facility is enjoyed by a larger ratio of population in the urban areas (456 per 1000) as against (87 per 1000) in the rural areas.

Houses with Electricity connection

In Tirunelveli district out of every 1000 population 655 enjoy electricity connection. This is the third highest ratio (655 out of 1000) among the districts of Tamil Nadu. Madras district being the first and Coimbatore district the second.

The cross-classification of households by source of drinking water supply (well, tap, handpump/tubewell, river/canal, tank and others and availability of electricity and toilet facilities for rural, urban and total in the district are given in the *Appendix -3* which indicates the number of households to which all the three facilities are available only two facilities are available and one facility is available.

Type of fuel used for cooking

In this district, more than 88 per cent of the households use only wood for cooking purposes. The use of cooking gas (Liquified Petroleum gas) started catching up as an easy and cheap alternative in the late 1960s and is now widly used. Particularly in urban areas of the district where there are outlets for supply of cooking-gas cylinders. However, cooking-gas is used only by 3.68 per cent of households in the state and occupies the third important place among the different types of fuel. Kerosene, which again is a scarce commodity, is used by 7.03 per cent of the districts' households and is the second important fuel. Cowdung cake is yet another source of fuel used by 1.25 percent of the households of the district. [11]

The other types of fuel like bio-gas (0.48 per cent), electricity (0.07 per cent), charcoal (0.04 per cent), coal/coke/lignite (0.01) are all found to be used by fewer households in the district. The residuary category of other fuels is also used by 0.39 per cent of the households.

In rural areas, firewood is used by 94.93 per cent of the households. The other prominent types used in the rural areas are: kerosene (2.99), cow dung cake (0.06) and cooking gas (1.17). It is clear from those figure that wood is the only well known type of fuel in the rural areas. In the urban areas the usage of wood accounts for 72.23 per cent of households. The other prominent fuel, used in the urban aeas are Kerosene (16.62 per cent) and cooking gas (9.63 per cent). The distribution of households by type of fuel used for cooking in rural and urban areas of the district, taluk, and town levels are given in the *Appendix - 4.*

Housing and sanitation

Housing and sanitation in rural areas is not only a basic need but also one of the most important components of quality of life. In order to meet the housing requirements of houseless poor families specifically destitutes, scheduled castes and Tribes; the schemes are implemented under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Regional Landless Employee Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and Tamilnadu Adi-Dravida Development Corporation (TADCO) and for sanitation (construction for latrines) funds are available from Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP).During 1987-88 about 1597 houses under NREP and 1020 houses under RLEGP and about 200 houses under TADCO were constructed and allotted to the houseless families.

Rural Housing is a continuing problem and it grows with the increase, in population and therefore continuous efforts are needed to tackle housing and sanitation problem. According to the information collected through village Basic Data inventory during 1988, there were 14,668 families houseless living in hut on rented land. Houselessness in urban areas is more than rural areas but not so acute in this District as in many other towns elsewhere.[12] Blockwise distribution of houseless families are given in the following table. The percentage of houseless families in the rural areas is about 4.33 per cent of the total rural households (3,39,689).

Table showing Blockwise distribution of Houseless families[13]

Sl.no.	*Name of the block*	*No.of families*
1.	Palayamkottai	1178
2.	Manur	1915
3.	Melaneelithanalloor	105
4.	Sankarankoil	380
5.	Kuruvikulam	800
6.	Cheranmahadevi	589

7.	Ambasamudram	57
8.	Kadayam	478
9.	Nanguneri	725
10.	Pappakudi	342
11.	Kalakad	929
12.	Vallioor	1159
13.	Radhapuram	1165
14.	Alangulam	633
15.	Kilapavoor	634
16.	Tenkasi	2293
17.	Kadayanallur	611
18.	Shengottah	286
19.	Vasudevanallur	389

INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES

Roads

The total road length in the district is 4520.75 km. of which 2327.05 km. are bituminous roads. 1370.60 km. water-bound Mecadam roads and remaining are unsurfaced. Organisational wise, 111.90 km. are under National Highways, 133.23 km. under State Highways; 782.68 km. major district roads, 1351.74 km. other district roads and rest are Panchayat union and village panchayat roads. Road length per 100 sq.km. is about 64 km. which is considerably higher than in most other districts of the State as well as in the country. The length of the Pucca roads per 100 sq.km. is 51.7 km. which is also higher than most of the districts in the State.[14]

Electrification

All the villages and towns in the district are electrified. Total connections in the district are 3,41,448 of which 2,34,348 are domestic, accounting for about 40 per cent of the total number of households, 2,325 street lightings, 47,911 commercial connections 49,460 agricultural connections and 7,404 industrial connections.

Post, Telegraph and Telephone facilities

The district has two postal divisions with a net work of six Head post offices, 186 sub-post offices (164 departmental and 32 extra department) and 466 branch post offices. Thus almost every town and village has a post office. Telegraphic facilities are available at all head post

offices, sub-post offices and branch post offices. Telephone facilities are also available in all towns and villages have rural connection.

Urbanism

Urbanism is normally equated with economic progress, and urban is forever opposed to rustic or rural as City is to village and thus urbanism is almost always identified with big cities. In the medieval period there were two urban centres in the district *viz.*, Kallidaikurichi and Ambasamudram (earlier called Rajaraja Chathurvedimangalam) in the upper Tamiraparani river valley in the district. Urban centres like Tenkasi and Tirunelveli began to grow steadily in the fourteenth century and their growth under Vijayanagara and Nayaka regimes. In 1300 A.D. a more complex urban landscape developed in theTirunelveli region, because migrants into the region of people who built concentrated urban centres of a sort that did not exist before.The new population of migrants that come into Tirunelveli continuously after 1300 A.D. produced new urban landscapes. The migrants were, Tamils, Telugus, Muslims, Christians and Europeans. They include priests, warriors, weavers, workers, merchants, bankers, sufis and ulema. From ancient time to sixteenth century most migrants who came into Tirunelveli region and other parts of Tamil country came in search of land. This remained true for Maravas and Nayagas who spread throughout theTirunelveli region from the fourteenth to sixteenth century. After 1550, no new social groups would enter into theTirunelveli region to establish contral over major expenses of farmland. Telugu migrants were last, in the seventeenth century with Kattabomman ancestors among them.[15] The composite urban site of Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Melapalayam which when combined with a few adjacent artisanal suburbs constitute an urban agglomeration of more than 40,000 people.

According to 1991, Census, there were two urban agglomeration *viz.*, Tirunelveli and Ambasamudram in the district. Tirunelveli Urban agglomeration comprises the areas of Tirunelveli (M) Palayamkottai (M)Melapalayam(M) Tachanallur (TP)Palayamkottai (VP) Thalayuthu (VP) Sankar Nagar (MTS) Alaganeri (VP), Melanatham (VP) Pettai (VP), Ambasamudram urban agglomeration comprises of Ambasamudram (TP) and Kallidaikurichi (TP). The other urban centres in the district were, Puliyangudi (M), Sankarankoil (M) Shengottah (M) Kadayanallur (M), Tenkasi (M) Courtallam (MTS). Vikkramasingapuram (TD) Sivanthipuram (VP),Viravanallur (TP)Eravadi (TP) and Thisayanvilai (TP).[16] (UA-Urban Agglomaratan; M-Municipality; TP-Town panchayat; V.P-Village Panchayat; MTS-Municipal Township.

Household consumer expenditure

The household consumer expenditure presented in this chapter is based on the survey conducted during the 44th round of National Sample

Survey (1988-89) in Tamil Nadu. The total household consumption is composed of expenditure of the household on broad groups of items. The groups are, cereals, gram, cereals substitutes, pulses and pulse products, milk and milk products, edible oil, meat, egg, and fish, vegetables, fruits and nuts, sugar, salt, spices, beverages and refreshment, pan, tobacco and intoxicants, fuel and light, clothing, footwear, miscellaneous goods and services, durable goods, rents and taxes.

Consumption pattern of the rural and urban households-

Household and size of the households.

In the Survey, 1824 sample households were contacted in both rural and urban sectors of the State. The estimated number of households in the State were 6.27 lakh rural and 41.06 lakh urban sectors. The total population is estimated at 375.7 lakh for rural Tamil Nadu and 191.25 lakh for urban Tamil Nadu. The household size in rural and urban sectors were 4.35 & 4.66 respectively.

Population by Monthly per capita expenditure

In rural sector only 3.6 per cent of the total households belong to the monthly per capita expenditure (PCE) class *Rs.400 and above* while it is 14.9 per cent in urban sector. Also in rural sector 16 per cent of the total households belong to *less than 100* monthly per capita expenditure class as against 3.6 per cent in urban sector. The largest population fall under monthly per capita expenditure group of Rs.100-200. It is 56.8 per cent in rural sector and 43.1 per cent in urban sector. It is also interesting to note that the population under the monthly per capita expenditure group Rs.400-600, Rs.600-800 and Rs.800- and above are grouped together in rural sector as Rs.400/- and above where as it is 10.1, 2.1 and 2.7 per cent in urban sector respectively. 96.4 per cent households are in monthly per capita expenditure group upto Rs.400 in rural sector and 85.1 per cent in urban Tamilnadu. Also per thousand distribution of estimated population for each monthly per capita consumption expenditure class by sector and by sex are furnished below:

Distribution of Population by monthly per capita expenditure class

Monthly PCE class	*Rural*			*Urban*		
	House hold%	*Persons*	*Sex ratio*	*House hold. %*	*Persons*	*Sex ratio*
Less than 100	16.0	18.9	1107	3.6	4.3	1135
100-200	56.8	57.5	974	43.1	48.3	1019
200-300	16.9	16.0	919	25.2	24.1	1078
300-400	6.7	4.9	995	13.2	13.2	896

400 and above	3.6	2.7	1062	14.9	10.1	947
400-600	–	–	–	10.1	7.0	860
600-800	–	–	–	2.1	1.7	1159
800 and above.	–	–	–	2.7	1.4	1213

Distribution of households and population by monthly per capita expenditure class

The concentration of population by monthly per capita expenditure class in rural sector is heavy in the monthly per capita expenditure class 80-175 (59.3 per cent) as seen in table below:[17]

Distribution of 1000 households and population by monthly per capita expenditure class

Monthly per capita expenditure class.	*Rural*		*Urban*	
	Households	*Persons*	*Households*	*Persons.*
Less than 80	50	63	8	6
80-100	110	126	29	38
100-125	183	198	102	121
125-150	170	176	145	159
150-175	130	124	111	125
175-200	85	77	73	78
200-250	110	107	144	143
250-300	58	53	108	98
300-400	68	49	132	132
400- and above	36	27	149	100
400-600	–	--	101	70
600-800	–	–	21	17
800 and above	–	–	27	14
All classes	**1000**	**1000**	**1000**	**1000**

In urban sector the concentration of population is 40.5 per cent in (100-175) monthly per capita expenditure class and 37.3 in (200-400) monthly per capita expenditure class.

Consumption of cereals

A comparative data on quantity of consumption of major cereals over earlier rounds is., 28th, 38th 42nd and 44th are presented in *Appendix-5*. It indicates that the per capita consumption of cereals like jowar, bajra and ragi has considerably reduced over years while the consumption of rice almost remains unchanged. In rural sector, for every 1000 persons, 500 persons belonging to "less than Rs.150/- monthly per capita expenditure class" consume less than 10 kg. of rice which is the overall quantity of consumption. In rural sector 63 (per 1000) persons under monthly per capita expenditure group of less than Rs.80 consume 7 kg. of rice and 126 persons under monthly per capita expenditure Rs.80-100 consume 8 kg. of rice only. However, in urban sector 159 persons (per 1000 persons) belonging to monthly per capita expenditure class *below Rs.125* consume 6-9 kg. of rice whereas the State average being 10 kg.[18]

Five hundred persons for every 1000 persons belonging to the monthly per capita expenditure class below Rs.150/- consume lesser quantity of *total cereals*, the overall average being 12 kg. for rural sector. However, jowar, bajra, maize, and ragi are the other cereals which continue to be in the diet list of these people. In urban sector only 324 persons (per 1000) consume lesser quantity of total cereals and belong to the monthly per capita expenditure class *less than Rs.150.*[19]

Average monthly per capita expenditure

The average monthly per capita expenditure per person for a period of 30 days in rural sector works out to be Rs.169.23 and for urban sector it is Rs.237.85. The average expenditure on food and non-food items are in the ratio of 13:7 in rural sector and 7:5 in urban sector. The value of consumption of various food and non-food items by broad expenditure per person for a period of 30 days are given in the table.[20]

Ratio of expenditure on food and non-food groups

Monthly	*Percentage of Expenditure*			
	Food	*Non-Food*	*Food*	*Non-food*
Less than 80	76.8	23.2	73.7	26.3
80-100	77.0	23.0	72.9	27.1
100-125	76.1	23.9	74.1	25.9
125-150	73.3	26.7	72.3	27.7
150-175	72.6	27.4	68.5	31.5
175-200	66.0	34.0	70.0	30.0
200-250	64.4	35.6	66.1	33.9

250-300	57.2	42.8	53.7	46.3
300-400	55.7	44.3	53.2	46.8
400 and above	34.0	66.0	–	–
400-600	–	–	48.3	51.7
600-800	–	–	31.1	68.9
800 and above	–	–	23.8	76.2
All classes	65.0	35.0	57.6	42.4

Prices

Variation in prices affect all classes and individuals in the community,such as producer, dealer or consumer. The improved standard of living, increase in cost of production, increase in the demand for the commodities, shortage in the supply of agricultural products and raw materials, droughts etc. are the general causes for rises in prices[21]. Paddy was cheaper in the southern parts of Chola empire in Rajaraja's time where seven kalams could be had for one Kasu at Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli district.[22] In 1927 Tirunelveli suffered from flood eruptions and it may be said that untimely excess of water resulted in more loss of revenue and general hardship than its lack.[23]

Between 1921-22 and 1930-31 the prices of rice, ragi, cholam and cumbu gradually increased and stood at Rs.8.4 per kg; Rs.16.0 per kg; Rs.15.6 kg. and Rs.13.8 per kg. in 1930-31 respectively. The following table shows a clear picture of the retail prices during 1921-22 to 1930-31.

Annual Statements showing average retail prices for every year from 1921 -22 to 1930-31 [24]

Year	*Rice*	*Ragi*	*Cholam*	*Cumbu*
			(Prices are in rupees per kg.)	
1921-22	5.4	8.8	8.2	8.2
1922-23	5.7	9.7	9.6	8.9
1923-24	5.8	9.9	9.1	9.7
1924-25	5.1	9.0	8.5	8.4
1925-26	5.5	9.9	9.5	9.1
1926-27	5.4	9.4	9.1	8.5
1927-28	5.5	9.3	8.8	8.5
1928-29	6.2	10.5	10.1	10.1

1929-30	6.6	11.9	11.4	10.7
1930-31	8.4	16.0	15.6	13.8
Average for the decade	6.0	10.4	10.0	9.5

During the decade 1931-40 the level of prices of agricultural products was low on account of the general economic depression, the decade 1941-50 saw a rapid mounting up of prices. During the war, prices recovered from the depression and the shooting up of prices became more pronounced after the war. The statement below gives the average retail prices of the principal foodgrains during the period 1931 to 1950.[25]

Year	*Paddy*	*Cholam*	*Cumbu*	*Ragi*
		(Prices are in rupees per kg.)		
1931-32	–	–	–	–
1932-33	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.2
1933-34	1.0	2.0	2.2	2.0
1934-35	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.4
1935-36	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.6
1936-37	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.4
1937-38	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.3
1938-39	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.4
1939-40	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.7
1940-41	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7
1941-42	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.0
1942-43	4.8	5.5	5.6	5.3
1943-44	6.2	8.1	8.1	7.7
1944-45	6.1	7.2	7.7	7.4
1945-46	6.4	7.2	7.6	7.6
1946-47	6.8	7.6	7.9	7.8
1947-48	8.8	9.7	10.2	9.6
1948-49	11.9	12.6	13.8	13.9
1949-50	5.0	10.3	10.1	10.0

Wholesale prices of principal commodities

The annual average wholesale prices of paddy increased from 35.43 in 1960-61 to Rs.58.05 per quintal during in 1970-71 (69 per cent). The price of rice marks a gradual increase from 1960-61 starting from Rs.59.15 and stood at 298.79 in 1985-86. The annual average wholesale price of cholam and cumbu also gradually increased. The price of cumbu was Rs.90.40 per quintal during 1980-81 as against 67.04 during the previous decade. From 1980-81 to 1985-86 the prices of ragi and cotton kapas registered a mixed trend. The price of ragi which was 30.18 in 1960-61 increased to 59.47 in 1970-71 and further increased to Rs.111.79 per quintal in 1980-81.

The annual average wholesale prices of paddy rice, cholam, cumbu, ragi, cotton and groundnut during 1960-61, 1970-71and 1980-81 to 1986 are as shown in *Appendix-6*.

Annual average wholesale price trend of selected commodities in the district

The price trend of selected commodities in wholesale prices between the years 1986-87 and 1994-95 is found to be in the following order.

The annual average wholesale price of paddy which ruled at Rs.209.16 per quintal in 1987-88 increased to Rs.220.11 in 1988-89, but the price decreased to Rs.171.79 in 1989-90. Since 1989-90, the price of paddy showed a gradual increasing trend. The annual average wholesale price of cholam was observed to be on an upward trend from 1986-87 to 1987-88 and similar was the trend between 1990-91 and 1994-95. In 1988-89 the price of cholam was decreased to Rs.194.18 per quintal as against Rs.212.18 in 1987-88. Between 1986-87 and 1988-89 prices of cumbu were showing a declining trend from their levels. From the year 1990-91 to 1994-95, the price of cumbu showed an increasing trend. The price of ragi gradually increased and stood at Rs.320.36 per quintal in 1994-95. The price of ragi was Rs.166.52 per quintal in 1986-87, Rs.185.70 in 1987-88 Rs.198.34 in 1988-89, Rs.181.02 in 1989-90, Rs.180.12 in 1990-91, Rs.221.10 in 1991-92, Rs.239.13 in 1992-93 and Rs.272.72 in 1993-94.

The annual average wholesale price of blackgram and green gram were registered in increasing trend from 1986-87 to 1988-89 and similar trend could also be witnessed between the years 1989-90 and 1994-95. In the year 1989-90, the price of blackgram decreased to Rs.592.41, when compared to previous year price level and the price of greengram decreased to Rs.665.22 in 1990-91 as against Rs.672.11 in 1989-90.

The price of cotton kapas was Rs.450.00 per quintal in 1986-87, then it stood at Rs.743.00 in 1987-88 which registered an increase of 65.11 per cent. In the year 1989-90 the price of cotton kapas witnessed

a decreasing trend. The annual average price of groundnut pods, from 1986-87 to 1994-95 showed a mixed trend. The price of onion registered a lower level in 1992-93 (Rs.93.00 per quintal) as compared with previous years price level. (i.e. Rs.230.18 in 1991-92).The price of palmgur was 577.76 in 1990-91 and it was further increased to Rs.1316.33 in 1993-94. The percentage of increase was 169 per cent. In 1994-95 the price of palmgur went down to Rs.799.80 per quintal against Rs.1318.33 l in 1993-94.[26]

Details of annual average wholesale prices of selected commodities such as, paddy (common) ,cholam, cumbu, ragi, blackgram, greengram, cotton kapas, groundnut pods, chillies, gingelly seed, canegur, onion palmgur etc., from 1986-87 to 1994-95 commoditywise and yearwise are furnished in **Appendix-7**.

Trends in wholesale price situation

The analysis turns to the study on the trend of the wholesale price index for a longer fifteen year period in the State. The average rate of increase in all the commodity indices during the nineties (9.9%) was marginally higher than that recorded for the eighties (9.3 per cent) as a whole. While the two less weighted major groups *fuel power light and lubricants* and manufactured products had decelerated, the heavy weighted *primary articles* group had advanced between these two points 9.2 per cent in 80's to 10.8 per cent in 90's. The trend analysis brings to surface the following major observations.

(i) the wholesale price index had accelerated at the rate of 9.5 per cent per annum on an average during the fifteen year period between 1980-81 to 1994-95.

(ii) the least 3.2 per cent growth of all commodity index recorded during 1993-94 was at its maximum (15.1percent) in 1981-82

(iii) for the period 1980-85, the all commodity index primary articles group and fuel power light and lubricants group on an average experienced an increase above ten per cent.

(iv) the minimum (0.1 per cent) and maximum (17.5 per cent) increase in *primary articles* group index was witnessed in 1985-86 and 1981-82 respectively. The first five years covered ,brought in a higher rate of inflation (11.6 per cent) in *primary articles* group caused by the frequent occurrence of drought and

(v) if the period of analysis is divided into three equal five year periods, the higher rate of inflation in the first five year period (10.4 per cent) was followed by an ease (8.2 per cent) in the second part and a recovery for the worse during the last five

year period. Similar is the experience with the primary articles' and fuel power, light and lubricants' groups. The manufactured product group, while maintaining the same pace of growth in the first and last five year periods, experienced an uptrend (10.3 per cent) in the second five year period.[27]

The trends in the groupwise index for the period of 1980-81 to 1994-95 are given in the *Appendix-8.*

Public Distribution system

The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been a permanent tool of the supply-management strategy adopted by the Government to moderate inflation and contribute for price stability. In fact, this system has been so effective that it ensures availability of essential commodities to the people, especially to the weaker sections and fixed income groups of society inspite of continued rise in the general price level since March 1979. This increase in price level is due to a combination of factors - higher import prices, upward adjustments in administered prices, infrastructural inadequacies, growing liquidity in the monetary system and severe drought conditions which is beyond the control of the Government.[28]

The State Government by supplying the essential commodities like rice, wheat, maida, rava, sugar, kerosene etc., through Public Distribution System insulate the weaker sections of the society from the backwash effects of the inflationary spiral. Of the 867 fair price shops serving 544558 family card holders in the district. 717 shops cater to the people in the rural areas and the remaining 150 shops serve the urban populace. While 689 fair price outlets are functioning under co-operative fold, 153 are managed by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) and 24 are functioning under palmgur societies.[29] The scale of distribution to the family card holders per month is at the rate of 4 kg. per adult and 2 kg. per child subject to a maximum of 12 kgs.[30]

Wages

Wages are remunerations paid to one of the factors of production, namely, *Labour* for the services rendered by it in the process of production. Wage may also be defined as a sum of money paid under contract by an employer to a worker for services rendered. This definition restricts the scope of the concept *wage* only to hired manual labour.[31]

Freedom of employment, or the freedom of members of the labour force to dispose of a fundamental resource, and one that they each possess, labour power, must be regarded as a crucial aspect of economic development. The agricultural labourers are classified into three broad categories. *viz.*, field labour, herdmen and other agricultural labour. Field labour comprises of ploughmen, sowers, pluckers, transplanters, weeders,

reepers and harvesters. Herdmen collect the livestock from different houses and feed them on grazing lands and bring them back to the house. Other agricultural labourers engaged, in watering fields, load carrying, well digging, dairy farming, poultry keeping, bee-keeping, artisans, (carpenters, blacksmiths and cobblers) and other employees engaged in other skilled and unskilled operations. For all these labour, no specific wage was fixed; different rates of wages prevailed in different places. Until 1948, no thought was given to fix a uniform wage structure for different labours. It was in 1948 that a legislation was brought out in the form of Minimum Wages Act.

The Minimum Wages Act 1948

The Minimum Wages Act of 1948 is an important piece of Government legislation for determining the level of wages in specific industries. The scope of the act was made wide enough to cover all types of workers, employed for hire or reward, for any kind of employment to do any works, skilled or unskilled, manual or clerical in an employment, in any place and includes an outworker to whom any article or materials and given out by another person to be made up, cleaned, washed, altered, ornamented, finished, repaired, adapted, or otherwise processed for sale for the purpose of trade or business of that person, whether the process is to be carried out either in the home of the outworker, or in some other premises, not being premises under the control and management of that person, and also included an employee declared to be an employee by the appropriate Government.[32]

Wage rates in agriculture is crop specific, operation specific and gender specific. There are, for instance, separate wages for harvesting paddy and harvesting other than paddy, for transplanting them and for threshing it; and there are separate wages for men and women at each of these tasks. Even for harvesting paddy, when men and women joinas contract gangs piece rated wages are divided equally among all members of the groups the gross payments received by men are higher than the gross payments received by women, since traditional additions to harvest wages are allocated unequally. There is another set of operations that can be said to be characterised by a standard wage these are operations that are daily rated and paid in cash. In these operations, too, however, the rates paid to women and men are different.

In normal condition wages for farm labourers are mostly determined by factors like, customary services as modified by the law of supply and demand. During the busy season, labour being more in demand, the wages are high, while during slack season labour can be hired at lower wages[33]. The agricultural labourer's wages (per day) in the district during 1979-80 to 1987-88 are furnished in the *Appendix-9.*

It indicates that the wages show an increase from 1979-80 onwards in respect of all agricultural operations. The ploughmen wages were more than double in 1986-87, when compared to the year 1979-80. Similar trend is seen for sowing transplanting and harvesting. The daily wages in respect of other agricultural operations increased from Rs.8.74 for men and Rs.5.14 for women in 1979-80 to Rs.12.22 for men; Rs.7.54 for women in 1983-84 and Rs.18.11 for men and Rs.11.78 for women in 1987-88. In case of tending cattle, the wages increased from Rs.2.20 for men and Rs.2.20 for women in 1979-80 to Rs.10.10 for men and Rs.4.73 for women in 1987-88.[34]

The 18th Quinquennial wages census was conducted in Tamil Nadu during February-March 1994 with January 1994 as reference period. This census covered all the districts of the State.[35] According to this Census the daily rates of wages paid to Agriculture and skilled labourers in rural areas of the Tirunelveli district during 1994, and these wages compared with statutory minimum wages fixed by the Government in April 1993 is as detailed *Appendix-10*[36].

It indicates that there is difference in wages between men and women workers. It is apparent that while the former gets more, the latter less wage in all types of agricultural operations. The daily average wages paid to men in 1994, was higher than the minimum wages fixed by the Government in all categories, whereas the women were paid lower wages in all cases except for harvesting paddy on an average.

Statistics of wages earned by the artisans, general labourers and domestic servants were collected from all the urban areas in the district during 1994. (The artisans comprise of carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and bricklayers, while sweepers and gardeners under domestic servants, General labourer includes unskilled workers of either sex seeking regular or usual employment) Details on wages paid to artisans, general labourers and domestic servants of urban areas are given in the *Appendix-11.*

In Tirunelveli district, majority of labourers are engaged in agriculture and allied works. Besides labourers are employed in the following industries in the district.These are automobile engineering, printing press; rice, flour, or dhall mills, tobacco (Beedi rolling) manufacture, plantations, public motor transports; textiles, handloom weaving; powerloom industry; bakeries and biscuits manufactures; shops and commercial establishments, hotels and restaurants,laundries and washing clothes, hospitals and nursing homes (other than Government); general engineering and fabrication; coir manufacturing unit; soap manufactory; palm industry etc.The minimum rates of wages fixed by Government for employment in the above industries are given below:

Wages for employment in Agriculture and work ancilliary to agriculture

The wages of the labourers engaged for employment in Agriculture and work ancilliary to agriculture are governed by the Minimum Wages Act 1948 (Central Act XI of 1948). Under clause (b) of sub- section of the Minimum Wages Act, the State Government have been empowered to revise from time to time the daily wages for these categories, and enforce the provision in the whole State of Tamil Nadu except the areas to which the Tamil Nadu Agriculture Labourers Fair Wages Act 1969 (Tamil Nadu Act 19 of 1969) applies. Accordingly the minimum wages of the labourers engaged in agriculture and allied works have been revised on 8 April 1993. The following are, in general, the minimum wages for the different categories of Agricultural labourer in the State of Tamil Nadu.[37]

Sl.no.	*Class of employees*	*Minimum rate of wages per day(Rs)*
1.	Employees engaged in ploughing with bullocks and ploughs supplied by him.	55.00
2.	Employees engaged in ploughing without bullocks and ploughs supplied by him.	32.00
3.	Employees engaged in harvest of paddy (reaping,carrying to thrashing floor, thrashing, winnowing, measuring, and bagging.)	32.00 or (cash value of the workers share in 1/8 of the gross yield of produce whichever is higher)
4.	Employees engaged in harvest of crops other than paddy.	32.00
5.	Employees engaged in sowing, plucking of seedling, replanting of seedling or weeding.	32.00 (sowing) 30.00 (plucking and replanting) 29.00 (weeding)
6.	Employees engaged in other agricultural operations (including trimming, bunds and fields, beekeeping, poultry farming and climbing trees)	32.00
7.	Attached Labourer/ Resident Labourer	616.00 per month

The above wage rates is for working period of seven hours per day for categories two to seven and five hours for category one irrespective of sex differentiation.

Automobile workshops

Government fixed the minimum rates of wages for employment in Automobile workshops with effect from 24 August 1988 and these wage rates were further revised and implemented from 10 April 1992. Details of wages for different categories in Automobile workshops are furnished in the *Appendix-12.*[38]

The wages notified above is linked to the average Madras City Consumer Price Index Number for the year 1988 (that is 808 points with base 1960-100) and for any future rise of every point over and above 808 points. An increase of seventy paise (70 paise) shall be paid as dearness allowance per month. The revision shall be effective from the 1st April every year on the basis of the average of the indices for the preceeding 12 months that is from January to December.

Wages for employment in rice mills, flour mills and dhall mills

The minimum rates of wages for employment in Rice Mills, Flour Mills and Dhall Mills were revised with effect from 11 July 1990 and these rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 14 July 1994. The revised rates of wages for employment in the Rice Mill, Flour Mill and Dhall Mills are given below:[39]

Sl.No.	*Classes of employees*	*Minimum rates of basic wage per day*
1.	Hamalis (Bag carriers)	27.50
2.	Bag weighter or Kata Mazdoors	26.50
3.	Bag stitchers	26.50
4.	Carriers of husk	24.00
5.	Mazdoors including Miscellaneous workers	24.00
6.	Carriers of Rice	24.00
7.	Engine Driver	31.00
8.	Electrician	31.00
9.	Fireman	24.50
10.	Fitters	26.50
11.	Hullerman	24.50
12.	Maistries	27.50
13.	Mechanic	27.50
14.	Oilers	24.00

15.	Paddy boilers	26.50
16.	Paddy drivers	26.50
17.	Paddy millers	24.00
18...	Sweepers	24.00
19.	Shellerman	24.00
20.	Winnowers	24.00
21.	Paddy soakers	24.00
22.	Water carrier	24.00
23.	Watchman	24.00
24.	Mazdoors employed in polishing	24.00
25.	Rice Measurers	24.50
26.	Mazdoors in Grinding grain -	24.00
27:	Dhall Manufacturer	24.00
28.	Loadman	24.00
29.	Peons	24.00
30.	Carpenters	26.50
31.	Varukadalai workers	27.50
32.	Clerk	770.00 per month
33.	Attenders	675.00 per month.

Minimum rates of wages for the employment in Public Motor Transport

The minimumwage rate for the employment in Public Motor Transport was last revised in 10 April 1991. These minimum rates of wages were further revised and the revised wage rates came into force with effect from 25 May 1995. The revised wages payable in respect of employment in Public Motor Transport are furnished in *Appendix-13.*[40] The dearness allowance shall be linked to the average Consumer Price Index Number for Madras city for the year 1991 (that is 1051 points with base 1960.100).

Minimum rates of wages for employment in any Plantations

Government fixed minimum rates of wages for the employment in any Plantations which came to effect from 11 June 1985 under the Minimum Wages Act 1948. These wage rates further revised and implemented from 30 August 1995. The minimum rates of wages payable to the classes of employees in any plantations are given below:[41]

Minimum rates of wages per day

Classes of employees.	*Adults* *Rs. Ps.*	*Adolesents* *Rs. Ps.*
Tea Estates and cinchona	23.25	15.35
Plantations (Other than Kanniyakumari district)		
Coffee and Cardamom estates.	22.40	14.85
Tea and Rubber estates in Kanniyakumari district.	25.50	16.75

The above rates of wages are linked to 1051 points, i.e. average consumer price index for the year 1991 for Madras centre (with base 1960-100) and for every rise of one point over and above 1051 points, the employees working in the above mentioned plantations shall be paid Dearness Allowance at the rate indicated below:

adult worker:	2.0	paise per point per day
adolescent workers:	1.4	paise per point per day

The dearness allowance shall be revised on first January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October of every year based on the Average Consumer Price Index of Madras Centre (with base 1960-100) for the second previous quarter beginning from 1st July, 1st October, 1st January and 1st April respectively.

Minimum piece rates of rubber slippers:

Guaranteed time rate : Rs.12.90 per day.

Minimum Piece rates

Class I	:	Yielding upto 113 kg. per acre 0.404686 hectares per annum) Rs.4.30 per half kg. up to the first 1 1/2 kg. of dry rubber.
Class II	:	(Yielding above 113 kg. upto 181 kg. Per acre-0-404686 hectares per annum) Rs.2.58 per half kg. up to first 2 1/2 kg. of dry rubber.
Class III	:	(Yielding above 181 kg. upto 272 kg. per acre 0.404686 hectares per annum) Rs.1.43 paise per half kg. up to the 4 1/2 kg. of dry rubber.
Class IV	:	(Yielding above 272 kg. per acre 0.404686 hectare per annum) Re.1.00 per half kg. of dry rubber.

Dearness allowance as applicable to other time rated rubber estate workers. Where the same work or work of a similar nature is performed, no distinction in the payment of wages shall be made as between men and women worker. Wherever the existing wages are higher than the minimum wages fixed herein, the same shall be continued to be paid.

Soap manufactory

The minimum rates of wages for employment in soap manufactory was fixed and came into force with effect from 6 September 1995. The wage rates are furnished as below:[42]

	Classes of employees		*Basic rates of wages.*	
1.	Foreman/Supervisor/Chemist		42.00	per day
2.	Boiler/Mixer/Chemist		38.00	"
3.	Cutter		35.00	"
4.	Stamping		34.00	"
5.	Packing:	a) Case	33.50	"
		b) Label	32.50	"
	(Per Gross subject to guaranteed time rate for Rs.32.50 per day).			
6.	Miscellaneous workers:			
		a) Inside	33.50	"
		b) Outside	33.50	"
7.	Office boy		33.50	"
8.	Van driver		1065.00	per month
9.	Clerk		975.00	"
10	Accountant		1065.00	"
11.	Typist		1065.00	"
12.	Cashier		1065.00	"
13.	Salesman		1065.00	"

The Dearness Allowance is linked to the Average Madras City Consumer Price Index Number for the year 1991, that is, 1051 points with base 1960-100 and for any future rise of every point over and above 1051 points, an increase of 90 paise (ninety paise) per month shall be paid as dearness allowance. The dearness allowance shall be calculated every year on 1st April on the basis of the average of the indices for the preceeding twelve months that is from January to December.

Tobacco Manufactory (Beedi Rolling)

The minimum rates of wages for the employment in Tobacco manufactory.(Beedi rolling) were revised in March 1993 and these rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 21 July 1995. The minimum rates of wages payable to the employees engaged in classes of work in Tobacco (Beedi rolling) are furnished below:[43]

	Classes of work	*Minimum rates of wages*
1.	For rolling 1000 Jadi beedies irrespective of size	27.90
2.	For rolling 1000 sada beedies irrespective of size. (including Mukkudal, Tirunelveli district type of beedies)	27.70

Coir Manufacturing Unit

The minimum rates of wages for employment in coir manufactory was revised last in April 1991. These wage rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 27 July 1995. Details of wages in the coir manufactory are furnished in *Appendix-14.*[44]

General Engineering and Fabrication Industry

The minimum rates of wages for employment in General Engineering and Fabrication Industry were revised last in June 1988. These wage rates were further revised and implemented from 3 August 1995. The revised minimum rates of wages payable to the classes of employees in General Engineering and Fabrication Industry are given *Appendix-15.*[45]

Printing Presses

The minimum rates of wages as payable to each class or classes of employees/workers in the employment in Printing Presses in the State were revised with effect from 1 October 1991 and these rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 3 November 1995.[46]

Classes of employees		*Minimum basic rates of wages per month.*		
		Zone-A	*Zone-B*	*Zone-C*
Group-I:	Accountant/Foreman and Supervisor.	1025.00	895.00	840.00
Group-II:	Clerk, Cashier, Typist, Steno-typist, etc. Store-keeper, Time-keeper, Mono-operator, Mono-castor, Line-operator,	950.00	825.00	760.00

	Offset printer, Artist, Camaraman,Imposter, Automatic machanicman.			
Group-III:	Proof Reader,Cylinder traddle Mechanicman, Platemaker, Electrician,Compositor, Binder,Ruler,Grinder, Feeder.	875.00	750.00	690.00
Group-IV:	Wheeler, Helper, Office boy,Peon Watchman,Packer.	775.00	645.00	630.00

Hospitals and Nursing Homes

(Other than Government and Employees State Insurance Hospitals and Dispensaries).

Government fixed the minimum rates of wages for employment in hospitals and Nursing Homes (other than Government and Employees State Insurance Hospitals and Dispensaries)with effect from 22 February 1989 and these rates of wages further revised came into force with effect from 25 January 1994. Details of minimum rates of wages as payable in respect of each class or classes of employees/workers in respect of Hospitals and Nursing Homes (other than Government and Employees State Insurance Hospitals and Dispensaries) in the State are given in *Appendix-16.*[47]

The dearness allowance is linked to the Average Madras City Consumer Price Index for the year 1988(i.e) 808 points with base 1960-100) and for every rise of one point over and above 808 points an increase of 75 paise (Seventy five) per month shall be paid as dearness allowance. The dearness allowance shall be calculated every years on 1st April on the basis of the average of the indices for the preceeding 12 months, namely from January to December.

Powerloom Industry

Government fixed minimum rates of wages for employment in powerloom industry with effect from 1st July 1983 as per the recommendations of the committee constituted by the Government in 1981 and these rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 28 December 1988. Details of wages in powerloom industry are furnished in *Appendix-17.*[48]

Forestry

Government included the employment in forestry in the schedule to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 in the year 1900 and decided to fix the

minimum rates of wages as payable in respect of each class or classes of employees in the employment in Forestry in the State and these rates came into force with effect from 9 March 1988. These rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 3 August 1985.[49]

The minimum rates of wages for employment in Forestry are furnished below:

Class or classes of employees.		*Minimum rates of wages. (Rs)*
1.	Nursery Mazdoor	21.50 per day
2.	Plot Mazdoor	21.50 "
3.	Fire Patrol watcher	21.50 "
4.	Sandalwood Protection/roaming watcher.	21.50 "
5.	Daily wages of Mazdoors:	
	Grade- I/ Class-A	26.50 "
	Grade- II/ Class-B	24.50 "
	Grade- III/ Class-C	21.50 "
	Note:	
	Grade- I / Class-A: Tirunelvely and Nilgiris districts	
	Grade-II/ Class-B : Salem, Coimbatore, Madurai districts.	
	Grade-III/ Class-C: Other Districts.	
6.	Mazdoors in Sandalwood department (semi skilled)	
	Class-I (Final cleaning)	26.50 per day
	Class-II (Rough cleaning)	24.50 "
	Class III (Other work)	21.50 "
7.	Wattle Operations:	
	Peeling the bark	335.00 per metric tonne
	Loading operations	100.00 "
	Cutting of bark and stacking	77.00 per Stack of 3 m^3
8.	Blue Gum:	
	Cutting and stacking	70.00 per stack of 3 cubic metres.

Laundries and Washing clothes

The minimum rates of wages for employment in Laundries and Washing clothes were revised with effect from 6 June 1990 and these wage rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 27 February 1995.

The minimum rates of wages payable to the classes of employees in Laundries and washing clothes in theTamil Nadu (including Tirunelveli district) are as follows:[50]

Sl.No:	*Classes of employees*	*Minimum rates of wages per day for 8 hours duty.*
1.	Washing clothes in laundries covered by the Factories Act or Employees' State Insurance Scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.	41.00
2.	Ironing clothes in laundries covered by the Factories Act or Employees' State insurance Scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.	45.00
3.	Washing clothes in laundries other than those mentioned in item 1 above.	44.00
4.	Ironing clothes in laundries other than those mentioned in item 2 above.	47.50

The minimum rates of wages shall be paid in cash.

The wages notified above shall be linked to the average Madras city Consumer Price Index number for the year 1991 (that is 1051 points with base 1960-100) and for any future rise of every points, an increase of 3.5 paise (three and half) shall be paid as dearness allowance.

The revision shall be effective from the 1st April of every year on the basis of the average of the indices for the earlier 12 months, i.e. fromJanuary to December.

Hotels and Restaurants

The minimum rates of wages for employment in Hotels and Restaurants were fixed under minimum wages Act 1948. These rates of wages were revised by the Government with effect from October 1991

and these rates were further revised and came into force with effect from 10 October 1995. Details of minimum rates of wages employment in Hotels and Restaurants are given in *Appendix-18.*[51]

Shops and Commercial Establishments

Government fixed the minimum rates of wages for employment in shops and commercial establishments in the State were fixed under Minimum Wage Act 1948. These rates of wages were recently revised by the Government and came into force with effect from 4 January 1995. Details of rates of wages for employment in shops and commercial establishment are furnished in *Appendix-19.*[52]

The dearness allowance is linked to the Average Consumer Price Index of Madras city for the year 1901, which is 1051 points with base 1960-100 and for any future rise of every one points over and above 1951 points, an increase of 65 paise per month shall be paid as dearness allowances. The dearness allowance shall be calculated every year on 1st April on the basis of the average of the indices for the preceeding 12 months, that is from January to December.

Bakeries and Biscuit manufactory

The minimum rates of wages for employment in bakeries and biscuit manufactory were revised last on 28 February 1990. These wages rates were further revised and they came into force with effect from 26 May 1995.[53] Details of wages in bakeries and a biscuit manufactory are tabled below:

Classes of employees.		*Minimum rates of wages. (Rupees)*	
I.	**General categories:**		
1.	Manager	1245.00	per month
2.	Asst.Manager	1000.00	"
3.	Cashier/Clerk	895.00	"
4.	Typist	895.00	"
5.	Salesman	895.00	"
6.	Store Assistant	845.00	"
7.	Driver	845.00	"
8.	Watchman/Peon	715.00	"

II **Other Categories.**

Highly skilled:

1.	Bakery Maistry	41.00	per day
2.	Any other highly skilled category.		
Skilled:		35.00	per day.
1.	Supervisor		
2.	Head Baker		
3.	Any other skilled category not covered above.		
Semi-skilled :		29.50	per day
1.	Baker		
2.	Overi-Keeper		
3.	Table Man		
4.	Dough Maker		
5.	Bun-Bounder		
6.	Bread-Moulder		
7.	Any other Semi-skilled category.		
Unskilled:		24.00	per day
1.	Assistant Baker		
2.	Helper/Assistants		
3.	Cleaner of all categories		
4.	Assistant of all categories		
5.	Any other unskilled category (not covered above)		

All these wage earners are eligible for dearness allowance as described elsewhere.

Handloom Weaving Industry

The rates of wages for employment in Handloom Weaving Industry were fixed under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act 1948, in 1974 and 1975. These wage rates were revised and came into force from 26 June 1989. The minimum rates of wages for employment in Handloom Weaving Industry were further revised and came into force with effect from 25 February 1994.[54]

Details of wage rates for employment in Handloom Weaving Industry in Tirunelveli circle are furnished below :

	Rs. Ps.	
Pat Saree (40s x 40s) 5.00 mtr.	13.25	per unit
Pat Saree (60s x 60s) 6.00 mtrs.	19.54	"
Art Silk Sarees (75x80) 5.00 mts.	39.93	"
Art Silk (75s x 100s) 6.00 mts.	47.19	"
Diamond towel (2/40s x 20s)	2.40	"
Bedsheet (50" x 90")2/17s x 2/17s) (125 x 225 cm)	20.29	"
Bedsheet (60" x 90")(2/17s x 2.17s(150 x 225cm.)	34.36	per unit
Lungies 72" x 2/60s x 40s (180 cm)	7.15	"
Lungies 72" 40s x 40s (180 cm)	6.60	"
Boys Lungies 2/60s x 2/60s	3.77	"
Season towel 26s x 26s	1.60	
Colour Kattum towel 26s x 26s	1.82	"
Dhothy 60s x 60s 3.66 mt.	13.27	"
Dhothy 26s x 26s 1.83 mt.	4.49	"
Gradele Dhothy 26s x 26s 2.34 mt.	6.00	"
Janatha Saree 40s x 40s 5.5 mt.	16.35	"
Colour Gada 26s x 26s 10 mtr.	1.75	
White Gada 26s x 26s	2.77	per mtr.
TN 26 Gada/2/40s x 20s	2.80	"
TN 24 Gada/2/60s x40s	2.80	"
Polyster 750	4.50	"

Employment Exchanges

In order to cater to the needs of all categories of job seekers 49 Employment offices including the four offices of the Regional Deputy Directors of Employment are functioning in the State.[55]

At District level, there is one District Employment Exchange at Tirunelveli which was established in the year 1958. This office is located in the 61 Old District building, Kokkirakulam, Tirunelveli.[56]

It is under the control of the District Employment Officer. A comparative picture of the work done in respect of registration of job seekers, number of vacancies notified, placement, number of employers both in Public Sector and Private Sector, number of employers in the organised sector, number of workers both State and Central Government offices, Unemployment Relief Scheme, Employment Market Information and Coaching cum Guidance Centre for SC/ST are presented below:

Unemployment Relief Scheme

Unemployment Relief was provided by the Government to nine selected categories of job-seekers in the district as in other parts of the State. Graduates, Post Graduates, Secondary grade teachers, Tamil and other Language teachers, Craft Instructors, Diploma-holders in Engineering, Pre-University Course (P.U.C), Higher Secondary (+2)/under graduates and Secondary School Leaving Certificate passed waiting on the Live Register for more than five years. The relief amount was tenable for a period of three years, varied from Rs.50/- per month to Matriculates, Rs.75/- per month to persons with Higher Secondary Course (+2) qualification and Rs.100/- to graduates. Disbanding this scheme from 31 March 1993 a revised scheme in the name of *Educated Volunteers Service Schemes* was started and transferred to Education Department.[57]

Unemployment Relief Scheme for the Blind

From 1 October 1988, the Unemployment Relief Scheme has been extended to the blind applicants who remained unemployed on the Live Register of the Employment Exchange in Tamil Nadu for more than a year. They are eligible to get the Unemployment Relief for a maximum of five years or till they reach the age of 40 years (45 years for SC/ST) whichever is earlier at the following rates with effect from 30 November 1988.

1.	Matric and below	Rs.50/- per mensum
2.	P.U.C./Higher Secondary/ Undergraduates.	Rs.75/- per mensum
3.	Graduates/Post-graduates	Rs.100/- per mensum

Subsequently, the relief paid to the blind beneficiaries has been enhanced as detailed below:

		(Enhanced rate) *With effect from 26-2-1990*	*With effect from 1.5.1992*
			(per mensum)
1.	Matric and below	Rs.100/-	150/-
2.	Pre-University/Higher Secondary Undergraduates	Rs.150/-	200/-
3.	Graduates/Post-graduates	Rs.200/-	250/-

The condition under which the relief was paid was that they should be in the Live Register for not less than one year, the parental income should not exceed Rs.2000/- per month, should not be more than 40 year of age (45 years in the case of SC and ST). Parent or guardian should be a resident of Tamil Nadu atleast for 15 years; monthly earning of the person who should not be a student should not exceed Rs.50/- per month.

The unemployment relief was paid for a five year period. By the end of September 1994, inTirunelveli district; a total number of 467 unemployed blind persons were benefited under the scheme and an amount of Rs.4.2 lakh had been spent for this purpose.

Categorywise and yearwise details on the amount of unemployment relief given to the registered unemployed persons, since the inception of scheme in Tirunelveli district are given in *Appendix-20.*

Employment Market Information

Employment Market Information Programme is operated under the provision of the compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act 1959. As per the provision of the Act, all establishments in Public sector and establishments employing 25 or more workers in Private sector are required to notify vacancies occurring in the establishment to the employment exchange in whose jurisdiction they are located. The information thus collected is furnished to State and Central Government for planning purposes. There are 20 Employment Market Information units functioning in the Employment Exchanges of the District concerned.These units also collect census of the Central Government employees and forward the same to the Government of India.[58]

Coaching cum Guidance Centre for SC/ST

The coaching cum Guidance Centre for SC/ST functioning at Coimbatore, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli and Vellore have conducted 14 pre-

recruitment training courses during the year 1989-90 in which 5095 SC/ST candidates took part.[59]

Unemployment

Unemployment is a common problem everywhere in the country and it could be reckened with the data available in the employment exchange of the district concerned. The total number of persons and women on the live register of employment exchanges in the district as at the end of each year from 1983 are furnished in the following table.[60]

Registration through Employment Exchange from 1983 to 1993

Year	*Total*	*Women*
1983	70867	11548
1984	83516	16189
1985	100269	20691
1986	104914	21956
1987	107585	21956
1988	118442	26442
1989	138139	32014
1990	155529	37588
1991	174394	43395
1992	186745	48403
1993	197235	52176

It may be seen from the above table that the number of jobs seekers which were at 70867 in 1983 had gone up to 1,55,529 in 1990 and 197235 in 1993. The total number of women registrations has increased from 11548 in 1983 to 21956 in 1987 and further moved up to 48,403 in 1992. In 1993, 52176 women were registered.

Placement through employment exchange

Total number of persons and women who are placed through Employment Exchanges from 1983-1992 (yearwise details) are given below:[61]

Year	*Total*	*Women*
1983	4278	1027
1984	3745	824
1985	2963	543

1986	2647	208
1987	2021	21
1988	2381	51
1989	2036	378
1990	1675	897
1991	1647	758
1992	1261	685

The number of vacancies filled through Employment Exchanges in the district between 1983 and 1992, shows a decreasing trend. In the year 1983 , 4278 persons were placed in employment. This number further decreased to 2963 in 1985 to 1675 in 1990 and to 1261 in 1992. An analysis of placement of women through Employment exchanges between 1980 and 1992 shows that the year 1987 witnessed the lowest number of placement which stood at 21 followed by the year 1988. 897 women were placed in employment in 1990, 758 in 1991 and 685 in 1992.

EMPLOYMENT IN DIFFERENT LEVEL OF OCCUPATIONS

Employment in Public and Private Sector

A review of the employment in the organised sector covers all establishment in public sector and non-agricultural establishments in private sector employing ten or more persons, during 1980 to 1993 reveals that the public sector has offered greater employment opportunity than the private sector. The employment in public sector and private sector in 1980 was 60967 and 49143 respectively; and this figures moved upto 73359 and 52546 in 1986. In the year 1987 the number of employment in Public sector as well as private sector had gone down, because the district was bifurcated in to two in the year 1986 (Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi. The employment in public sector and private sector between 1987 and 1994 shows an increasing trend and mixed trend respectively. Employment trends in public sector and private sector are given below:[62]

Employment in Public Sector and Private sector from 1980 to 1994

Year	*Public Sector*	*Private Sector*
1980	60967	49143
1981	62531	50974
1982	63142	50937
1983	66042	52106
1984	72035	52875

1985	72586	52192
1986	73359	52546
1987	50474	31470
1988	49950	32749
1989	51055	33322
1990	51426	32949
1991	53759	33033
1992	53811	32854
1993	53983	33014
1994	55064	33925

Employment in Organised sector

Total number of employees in the organised sector from 1980 to 1992 are: 1980-110110, 1981-113505, 1982-114079, 1983-118150, 1984-124910, 1985-124778,1986-125905, 1987-81944, 1988-82699, 1989-84377, 1990-84375, 1991-86792 and 1992-86665.

In composite Tirunelveli district, the total number of employees in the organised sector in 1980 were 110110. This was increased up to 124778 in 1965 and 125905 in 1986. Labour absorption in the sector in Tirunelveli district had recorded a modest improvement between 1987 to 1992. In the year 1992, 86665 persons were employed in the organised sector.

Employment in State and Central Government Offices

The total number of persons employed under State Government offices in 1980 were 23939 which went up to 31309 in 1986. The number of persons employed were 21054 in 1987 which rose to 22469 in 1988 and showed a modest improvement up to the year 1991 as the number stood at 24114. In the year 1993, 23355 persons were employed in the State Government offices.

The employment position in the composite district under Central Government offices between 1980 and 1986 showed an increasing trend. In Tirunelveli district, the number of persons employed under Central Government offices from 1986 to 1993 showed a mixed trend. The details of employment in the State and Central Government offices between 1980 and 1993 is given in the following table.

Employment in the State and Central Government Offices from 1980 to 1993.

Year	State Government	Central Government
1980	23939	3625
1981	28840	3941
1982	28523	3985
1983	28513	4140
1984	29814	4271
1985	30216	4227
1986	31309	4302
1987	21054	1958
1988	22469	1864
1989	23009	1904
1990	23155	1856
1991	24114	1862
1992	23383	1949
1993	23355	2044

Employment of woman in the organised sector

The Participation of woman in the district in different categories of employment in both Public and Private sectors is in line with the general pattern of employment of women in the State. During three years, women work force formed on an average about 17 per cent of the total working population. The period 1967-68 to 1977-78 saw an increase of 23.4 per cent in the total number of women workers through there was a slight reduction by 2.3 per cent during 1977-78, when compared with the year 1976-77.

Employment of Women

Year	Total no. of Workers	Total no. of women workers	Per cent of women workers to total no. of workers
1967-68	84147	14267	16.95
1976-77	106114	18028	16.99
1977-78	103037	17609	17.09

Role of the District in the implementation of Government Policies

The twin problems of the economy which are highlighted in all the Five Year Plans are poverty and unemployment. Eradication of poverty has long been recognised as one of the major challenges confronting human society. Poverty is measured in terms of poverty line related to income or more commonly, to estimates of consumption expenditure based on successive round of National Sample Survey (N.S. S) It began with a definition of poverty line as a per capita monthly consumption of Rs.15/- for the rural population or Rs.20/- for urban population in 1960-61 (Planning Commission 1962). Later the norm was modified to mean expenditure necessary for daily consumption of 2400 calories in rural areas and 2100 calories in urban areas [63] (Planning Commission 1981).

Poverty alleviation has been accorded importance after independence., However, in the first three five year plans (1951-66)the planners had placed them reliance on the 'trickle down' theory of development. In 1952, community Development Programme was introduced with the main objective to raise the standard of living in rural areas. There were at the end of the First Plan, two community development blocks (Cheranmahadevi and Kuruvikulam) and one National Extension Service Blocks (Vallioor) in the Tirunelveli district.[64]

During the IV Five Year Plan, special attention was given to alleviation of poverty particularly rural poverty. During the period, Small Farmer Development Agency (SFDA) and Marginal Farmer and Agricultural Labours Agency (MFAL) aiming at helping the specific target groups, started functioning. The Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans aimed at providing the basic needs in the form of drinking water, education, health and sanitation, and introduced a pilot scheme for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labour.Later, the programme was transferred to Minimum Needs programme (MNP) providing backup support in the form of social consumption of goods and services.

In this chapter the coverage extends to the various poverty alleviation schemes implemented in the district which focus on the generation of supplementary employment for the poor in the rural areas.

The following programmes are implemented in the district.[65]

1. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)
2. Training of Rural Youths for Self-employment (TRYSEM)
3. Jawagar Velai Vaipu Thittam(JVVT)
4. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)
5. Bio-gas Programme

6. Improved Chullah Programme
7. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)
8. Decentralised District Planning (DDP)
9. Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans
10. Western Ghat Development Programme
11. M.P's Local Area Development Programme
12. Programme for Assured Employment (PAE)
13. Drought Prone Area Programme(DPAP)

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

IRDP is one of the most important anti-poverty programmes launched in the year 1978-79. The objective of this programme is to enable selected rural families living below poverty line to enhance their income levels and cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. At present, a family with annual income level of Rs.11,000/- or less is considered to be below poverty line. The beneficiaries are eligible for getting subsidy under this programme. A 25 per cent subsidy for small farmers, 33 1/3 per cent for marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans and 50 per cent for SC/ST families and physically handicapped persons. The ceiling for subsidy is Rs.6000/- for SC/ST families and physically handicapped; for others it is Rs.4000/- in Non-Drought Prone Area Development Programme (DPAP) areas and Rs.5000/- in DPAP and Desert Development Programme(DDP) areas. The programme is jointly implemented by Government and the financial institutions.

The IRDP was launched in the district in 1980. In 1980-81, there were 3,04,040 lakh families in rural area of the district; of which 1,80,867 (59.48 per cent) were below poverty line. During this period, a total of 69,328 families were assisted under IRDP. The target and achievement under IRDPin the district for the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the *Appendix-21.*[66]

Training of Rural Youths for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)

The main thrust of this scheme is on equipping rural youths with necessary skills and technologies to enable them to seek self-employment and wage employment and to generate maximum additional income to raise them above the poverty line.

The training facilities are available in formal and non-formal institutions. The formal institutions, are the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYK), Polytechnics, Khadi and Village Industries Board, State Institutes of Rural Development, Extension Training Centres institution run by NGOs (Non-government Officers) etc.

Under the TRYSEM, a minimum 50 per cent of selected youth should belong to the SC/ST communities .The coverage of women among the rural youth trained should be atleast 40 per cent while a minimum three per cent of the benefits should be earmarked for physically handicapped persons.

The duration of training period varies from three months to 12 months depending upon the nature of the trades in which skill to be imparted. For the year 1995-96, stipend paid to each trainee who came from outside the training centre was Rs.350/- per month and Rs.150/- per month for local trainees. Besides, trainer fee of Rs.200/- per month per trainee and Rs.75/- for raw material cost per month per trainee is also paid to the institutions.

The financial and physical progress for the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the district are as follows:

Year	*Target*		*No.of trainees completed*	*No.of trainees trained.*	*No. of training centres under going.*	*No.of trades selected.*	*Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)*
	Physical.	*Financial. (Rs. in lakh)*					
1993-94	1170	37.240	1301	-	42	33	25.31
1994-95	1064	29.800	1106	30	41	33	29.24
1995-96 (upto June)	–	29.800	1065	-	54	25	10.00

Kattida Maiyam

The Kattida Maiyam (Building Centre) set up in each district and co-sponsored by the Centre, the State and Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO). Kattida Mayam function under the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) are designed as training-cum-production centres. The basic approach to deal with local materials, rationalise construction system eliminate waste, evolve creative designs which meet local needs and train a body of artisans to execute the works.

The *Kattida Maiyam* in Tirunelveli is functioning with District Collector as Chairman and the Additional Collector as Secretary. It concentrates on training masons and rural youths in alternative housing technologies. Regular training programmes are conducted in collaboration with DRDA and District Urban Development Agency (DUDA). A large number of youths, including women in the age group of 18 to 35 years are imparted training under the TRYSEM and Nehru Rozgar Yojna schemes. The training programme is for three months and the trainees are given a stipend of Rs.300/- per month.[67]

Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam (J.V.V.T.)

To tackle the problem of unemployment and poverty, the Government of India launched National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employee Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) during VI Plan Period. These programmes continued right upto the end of 1988-89. In 1989-90, an Intensive Rural Employment Programme called. Jawaharlal Nehru Rozgar Yojna (JNRY) was announced for tackling the increasing unemployment problems. In 1989, all the rural employment programmes, i.e. NREP, RLEGP and JNRY were merged into one single programme known as Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY), i.e. Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam (J.V.V.T).

The primary objective of this scheme is generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons both men and women in rural areas.

Creation of productive community assets for strengthening the rural economic and social infrastructure and improvement in the overall quality of life in the rural areas are the secondary objectives. Preference is given to SC/STs for employment. 30 per cent of employment opportunities are reserved for women. Both men and women workers were paid a minimum wage of Rs.20/- per day up to 31 March 1995. From 1st April 1995,it has been enhanced to Rs.22/- per day.

In the year 1993-94 under J.,V.V.T. 32.021 lakh man days were generated with an expenditure of Rs.1135.606 lakh. During the year 1994-95, the total amount of Rs.1115.832 lakh was spent as against the target of Rs.1352.275 lakh. Accordingly 33.474 lakh mandays have been generated against the target of 30.190 lakh. For the year 1995-96, the Government of India have allotted Rs.1052.080 lakh. In the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 works carried out under JVVT and work wise achievement details in physical and financial are furnished in the *Appendices 22 & 23.*

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)

The special programme for the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) aims at strengthening the gender component of the IRDP, DWCRA was introduced in the district.

The primary objective of the DWCRA programme is to focus attention on the women members of rural families living below the poverty line with a view to providing them with opportunities of self employment on a sustained basis. The women members of DWCRA form groups of 10-15 women each for taking up economic activities suited to their skill aptitude and local conditions. This programme also aims at improving women's access to basic services like family welfare, health, nutrition, education, child care, water and sanitation.

The assistance given to a group is Rs.25,000 which is put into a revolving fund for infrastructure support for income generating and other group activities honorarium to Group Organiser at the rate of Rs.50/- per month for a period of one year and Rs.500/- to meet travel allowance for group members for visits to bank etc.

In Tirunelveli district, 205 DWCRA groups, have so far been formed. A sum of Rs.27480 lakhs have been released, soon. The following 19 blocks have been selected for implementing DWCRA in the district. 1. Radhapuram, 2. Vallioor, 3.Nanguneri, 4.Palayamkottai, 5.Manur, 6.Melaneelithanallur, 7.Sankarankoil, 8.Kuruivikulam, 9.Alangulam, 10.Kadayanallur, 11.Keelapavoor ,12.Tenkasi, 13. Shengottah, 14.Ambasamudram, 15.Cheranmahadevi, 16.Kalakad, 17.Kadayam, 18.Pappakudi and 19.Vasudevanallur.

Bio-gas Programme (Gobar Gas)

The Programme is implemented through District Rural Development Agency. At block level, it is implemented through Additional Block Development Officer and Extension Officer (Social Forestry) at village level, it is Rural Welfare Officer, who implements this scheme. So far, 2,394 bio-gas plants have been provided in the district. The cost of medium size plant is about Rs.6500/- of which, Rs.2500/- as subsidy is available to all. During the year 1993-94, 473 plants were installed against the target of 470. In the year 1994-95, 400 plants were installed. The Government give subsidy for construction of Bio-gas plants and the amount depends on capacity of the plant and region, as detailed below:

Capacity	*Subsidy* *Bill area* Rs.	 *Others* Rs.
1.	2000/-	1500/-
2	2400/-	1800/-
3 & 4	2600/-	2000/-

Chulah

The Chulah scheme is implemented by the Block Development Officer with the assistance of one Assistant Engineer and a Technician. During the year 1993-94, 9405 Chulahs (inclusive of fixed and portable) were installed and 10,000 Chulahs were installed in the year 1994-95. For the year 1995-96, Government target was 9000 Chulahs.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

This scheme was introduced in Kuruvikulam block only during 1993-94. The scheme aims at providing assured employment for 100 days of

unskilled manual works to all the adults between the age group of 18 and 60 years; normally residing in that area, who are in need of employment and seeking it during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective of the scheme is the creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment and development. A maximum of two adults per family are to be provided employment under the scheme.

Accordingly 18750 Mandays were generated with an expenditure of Rs.6.25 lakh for 1993-94. During 1994-95, 1,48,500 mandays are generated with an expenditure of Rs.55 lakh. So far, 3352 families have been registered. Out of these, 3352 families identity cards are issued to 2880 families.

The Government of India contributes Rs.30 lakh as Central share and the State Government Rs.5 lakh as its share.

Decentralised District Plan

The Government of Tamil Nadu have introduced this scheme in all the districts in Tamil Nadu since 1993-94. The Government have sanctioned Rs.191.00 lakh to the Tirunelveli district for implementation of schemes under Decentralised District Planning for 1994-95. As per the existing guidelines the District plan has been prepared to execute 227 works with the estimate cost of Rs.191-00 lakh. All the works were executed by Block Development Officers, PWD, TWAD, Kattidamaiyam and Encofed. The details of works executed and amount spent are detailed as below:

Sl.No.	*Name of the work*	*No.of physical works executed*	*Financial amount spent*
1.	Construction/Renovation of school buildings.	3	6.58
2.	Construction/Renovation of Noon Meal Centre.	1	0.80
3.	Construction of culvert/ bridges.	-	0.75
4.	Formation and improvement of roads.	15	15.55
5.	Construction of Bathing Ghat, retaining wall.	14	11.79
6.	Providing protected water supply	38	17.83
7.	Construction of drainage	7	5.27
8.	Desilting of supply channels	12	12.24

9.	Improvement of burial ground and grave yards.	5	4.58
10.	Construction of fish drying yards	-	0.40
11.	Construction of library buildings	-	1.10
12.	Improvements of shandies	-	0.60
13.	Construction of thrashing floors	10	5.38
14.	Construction of bus shelter	5	1.31
15.	Construction of community centre	-	2.40
16.	Construction of building for primary health centres.	--	2.90
17.	Construction of building for veterinary centres.	-	1.10
	Total	110	90.58

Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans

The scheme of supplying of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans was launched in July 1992. Tirunelveli district is one of the ten districts selected for implementation of this scheme with an allocation of Rs.23.40 lakh for 1993-94. Under the scheme, artisans from different crafts, except weavers, tailors, needle workers, and beedi workers, living below the poverty line are given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality of life by utilisation of improved tools. This scheme also intends to reduce their migration from rural areas to urban areas. There are 1300 artisans under six different trades, viz., Carpentry, Blacksmithy, Barber, Dhobi, Shoemaking and pottery. Tools are purchased from Tamil Nadu Khadi and Village Board, Madras.

The average cost of toolkits provided to the rural artisans is Rs. 2000/- as fixed by the District Rural Development Agency. The artisans are required to contribute 10 per cent of the cost as their share and the balance 90 per cent is provided as subsidy by the Government of India. For the year 1994-95, Rs.29.8. lakh were allotted for 1065 rural artisans. All tools are supplied to the beneficiaries.

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

The first major and conscious effort towards mitigating the adverse effects of drought on a continuing basis was started in the district in 1986-87 with launching of Rural Works Programme. The objectives of the

programme are (i) to mitigate the adverse effects of drought on crops and livestock, and (ii) to restore the ecological balance in the long run. The programme is implemented in Kuruvikulam block of the Tirunelveli district.

The sectors covered under DPAP are Agriculture, Agriculture Engineering, Horticulture, Sericulture, Poultry, Dairying and Social Forestry. The sector-wise progress is shown in the following table:

Drought Prone Area programme

Sl. No.	*Sector*	*Scheme*	*Unit*	*1986-87*		*1987-88*		*1988-89*	
				Physi-cal	*Finan-cial*	*Phys-ical*	*Finan-cial*	*Physi-cal*	*Finan-cial*
1.	Agriculture plots, oil seeds, land development	Demonstration,	Ha	2123	5.40	250	1.30	170	1.47
2.	Agriculture Engineering and canals.	Percolation Ponds, wells	No.	6	9.45	7	3.91	-	-
3.	Horticulture development culture	Orchard	Ha	40	0.20	125	2.14	-	-
4.	Sericulture centre, Mulbe-rry Plantation	Chalkirearing	Ha	-	1.68	-	1.91	-	0.21
5.	Poultry	Poultry shed/ Units	No	-	-	100	1.36	-	-
6.	Dairy	Demonstration Farms	No	-	-	1	3.29	-	-
7.	Forestry Plantation	Afforestation	Ha	-	-	78	2.50	-	-

MP's Local Area Development Programme

This scheme came into working during 1993-94 with an allotment of Rs.25 lakh to this district. Out of the 22 works processed by Member of Parliament, 21 works were completed. For the year 1994-95, Rs.4.52 crore has been allotted by Government of India to execute 376 works.

Programme for Assured Employment.

This scheme was implemented in 18 blocks of this district (Except Kuruvikulam block) during 1993-94. Rs.324 lakh were allotted to this district at the rate of Rs.18 lakh per block. Persons in the age group of 18-60 years who is willing to work atleast for 30 days continuously will be benefited.

Particularly landless agricultural labourer, below poverty line can get themselves registered under this scheme. So far 26,439 families are identified and 7415 persons were provided employment. This scheme has been discontinued from 1995-96 onwards in this district.

Western Ghat Development Programme

This scheme is implemented since 1975-76 in seven taluks of the district, namely, Sivagiri, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi, Shengottah, Ambasamudram, Nanguneri and Radhapuram. For 1993-94, Rs.73.139 lakh are allotted and all the amount have been distributed among the implementing officials of Forest, Agriculture, Public Works Department (P.W.D) Highways and Rural Works, Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries, Khadi and Village Board and Animal Husbandry. For the year 1994-95 Rs.80.70 lakh were allotted and were distributed among the above departments.

APPENDIX - 1

Total Main workers by Nine broad Industrial categories, marginal workers and non-workers in Tirunelveli district of total population

Industrial categories	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Persons	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*
I. Cultivators	251257	181371	69886	220915	164236	64679	22342	17135	5207
II. Agricultural labourers	349089	184055	165014	306481	159071	147410	42588	24984	17804
III. Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Plantations.	17291	13922	3369	15975	12695	3080	1616	1227	289
IV. Mining and Quarrying	2450	2149	301	1781	1574	207	669	575	94
V. (a) Manufacturing, Processing,servicing, repairs in other than household industries.	167749	22847	144902	121685	13991	107694	46064	8856	37208
(b) Manufacturing, Processing, servicing repairs in household industries.	92669	67457	25212	43715	28521	15194	48954	38936	10018
VI. Construction	14306	13706	600	6707	6654	253	7399	7052	347
VII. Trade and Commerce	9932	85244	4888	37216	34592	2624	52916	50652	2264
VIII. Transport and communications.	21864	21382	482	8534	8367	167	13330	13015	315
IX. Other services	99256	70802	28454	54421	37539	16822	44835	33203	11632
Total Main workers	1106043	662935	443108	825430	467300	358130	280613	195635	84978
Marginal workers	74326	5896	68430	56999	4166	52833	17327	1730	15597
Non-workers	1321663	561071	760392	826227	365332	460895	495236	195739	299494

Source : Census of India 1991, Primary Census Abstract for General Population, Tamil Nadu..

APPENDIX-2

Total main workers by nine broad industrial categories total main workers, marginal workers and non-workers as per centage of total population 1991

Industrial categories	Year	Total			Rural			Urban		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
I	1991	13.40	19.63	7.42	2.82	4.36	1.30	10.04	14.75	5.50
II	1991	17.94	19.01	16.91	5.37	6.36	4.40	13.95	14.97	12.97
III	1991	0.92	1.52	0.35	0.19	0.31	0.07	0.69	1.13	0.27
IV	1991	0.10	0.19	0.03	0.09	0.15	0.02	0.10	0.17	0.02
V (a)	1991	7.12	1.67	12.35	5.81	2.25	9.30	6.71	1.86	11.39
(b)	1991	2.56	3.41	1.74	6.17	9.90	2.50	3.71	5.48	1.98
VI	1991	0.40	0.79	0.03	0.93	1.79	0.09	0.57	1.11	0.05
VII	1991	2.18	4.13	0.30	6.67	12.89	0.57	3.60	6.93	0.3
VIII	1991	0.50	1.00	0.02	1.68	3.31	0.08	0.87	1.74	0.04
IX	1991	3.19	4.49	1.93	5.65	8.45	2.91	3.97	6.76	2.24
Total main workers	1981	45.15	56.09	34.71	34.05	49.58	18.78	41.64	54.01	29.72
	1991	48.31	55.84	41.08	35.38	49.77	21.24	44.21	53.90	34.84
Marginal workers	1981	2.90	0.93	4.78	1.78	0.67	2.87	2.56	0.84	4.19
	1991	3.33	0.50	6.06	2.18	0.44	3.90	2.97	0.48	5.38
Total workers	1981	48.05	57 02	39.50	35.83	50.25	21.65	44.19	54.85	33.91
Main workers + Marginal workers	1991	51.64	56.34	47.14	37.56	50.21	25.14	47.18	54.38	40.22
Non -workers	1981	51.95	42.98	50.50	64.17	49.75	78.35	55.81	45.05	66.09
	1991	48.36	43.66	52.86	62.44	49.79	74.86	52.82	45.62	59.78

APPENDIX-3

The gross classification of households by source of drinking water supply availability electricity and toilet facilities for total rural urban in Tirunelveli district.

Type of Reso urces	With/ outside	Total					Rural					Urban				
			Electricity					Electricity					Electricity			
			Available		Not available			Availible		Not Available			Available		Not Available	
		Total	Toilet A	Toilet NA	Toilet A	Toilet NA	Total	Toilet A	Toilet NA	Toilet A	Toilet NA	Total	Toilet A	Toilet NA	Toilet A	Toilet NA
All	within	119305	73475	40455	465	4910	43655	18710	21555	240	3150	75650	54765	18900	225	1760
	outside	462470	29680	218715	5525	208550	365570	11820	177405	3270	173075	96900	17860	41310	2255	35477
Well	within	12975	7305	4265	105	1300	7640	3400	3025	100	1115	5335	3905	12405	185	
	outside	130800	3340	64300	1135	62025	122825	2290	61150	825	58560	7975	1050	3150	310	3465
Tap	within	83910	53320	27755	265	2570	23370	9215	12645	95	1415	60540	44105	15110	170	1155
	outside	213230	20155	100020	2585	90470	141330	6420	69050	1240	64620	71900	13735	30970	1345	25850
Hand	within	20580	12100	7660	80	740	11940	5815	5550	40	535	8640	6285	2110	40	205
Tube	outside	93140	4415	42530	1405	44790	82210	2455	38010	1055	40690	10930	1960	4520	350	4100
River	within	975	520	360	5	90	450	235	150	-	65	525	285	210	5	25
Canel	outside	13610	925	6270	225	6190	9760	215	4645	60	4840	3850	710	1625	165	1350
Tank	within	15	-	10	5	-	15	-	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
	outside	1970	100	820	35	1015	1905	85	795	35	990	65	15	25	-	25
Other	within	850	230	405	5	210	290	45	175	-	20	610	185	230	5	190
	outside	9720	745	4775	140	4060	7540	355	3757	55	3375	2180	390	1020	85	685

A-Available NA- Not Available

Source: Census of India 1991, Series 23, Tables on Houses and households amenities, Tamil Nadu, Part VII, pp.

APPENDIX-4

Households by type of fuel used for cooking.

Name of taluk M,TP,VP,	Rural/ Urban	Total no.of households	Cowdung cake	Electricity	Coal/coke Lignite	Charcoal	Cooking gas	Wood	Bio-gas	Kerosene	Others
District	Rural	409225	255	230	60	175	4800	388475	1280	12210	1730
	Urban	172550	330	190	25	60	16610	124630	1515	28680	510
Sivagiri taluk	Rural	29665	15	5	-	10	105	28550	40	915	25
Sankarankoil taluk	Rural	64490	75	40	10	10	325	11515	115	1895	505
Shencottai taluk	Rural	16530	15	-	5	35	210	15935	40	250	35
Tenkasi taluk	Rural	91650	25	30	15	5	1190	86660	370	3145	210
Tirunelveli taluk	Rural	26980	-	10	-	5	210	25960	115	665	15
Palayamkottai taluk	Rural	20685	25	10	-	5	1015	18145	95	1330	60
Ambasamudram taluk	Rural	65530	45	95	20	90	845	61710	205	1850	665
Nanguneri taluk	Rural	42855	40	10	5	-	300	41315	70	980	135
Radhapuram taluk	Rural	50840	15	30	5	15	600	48685	230	1180	30
Tirunelveli (UA)	Urban	77780	175	70	10	40	11425	45580	730	19485	265
Palayamkottai (M)	Urban	11880	30	-	5	-	170	10875	55	735	10
Sankarankovil (M)	Urban	9895	5	-	-	-	490	7525	110	1750	15
Shencottai (M)	Urban	5825	10	-	-	-	410	4670	70	655	10
Kadayanallur (M)	Urban	14510	20	10	10	5	685	12125	75	1490	90
Tenkasi (M)	Urban	12010	5	10	-	5	1030	9445	90	1385	40
Courtallam (TP)	Urban	455	-	-	-	-	15	325	60	55	-
Vickramasingapuram(TP)	Urban	12020	35	85	-	-	725	9810	80	1265	20
Sivanthipuram(VP)	Urban	1995	-	-	-	-	55	1830	45	65	-
Veeravanallur (TP)	Urban	4615	-	-	-	5	60	4295	25	225	5
Eruwadi (TP)	Urban	2970	10	-	-	-	135	2750	40	35	-
Tisayanvilai (TP)	Urban	3825	5	-	-	5	35	3585	10	175	10
Ambasamudram (UA)	Urban	14770	35	15	-	-	1375	11815	125	1360	45

M-Municipalities TP - Town Panchayat, V.P- Village Panchayat.

APPENDIX-5

Comparative Data on quantity of consumption on major cereals over earlier rounds - 28, 38, 42 and 44 round in the State.

	28th Round		38th Round		42nd Round		44th Round	
	Rural	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Urban*
Rice	10.15	10.84	8.40	8.57	9.91	9.23	9.99	9.65
Wheat	--	--	0.38	0.93	0.39	0.98	0.27	0.68
Jawar	0.94	0.18	0.99	0.13	0.39	0.04	0.34	0.02
Bajra	0.84	0.08	1.00	0.16	0.52	0.03	0.66	0.01
Maize	--	--	0.05	--	0.04	0.01	0.03	--
Small Millets	--	--	0.11	--	0.31	0.01	0.02	--
Ragi	1.83	0.38	1.31	0.25	1.15	0.14	0.84	0.10
Total cereals	14.02	11.73	12.24	10.04	12.71	10.44	12.17	10.46
Gram	--	--	0.04	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.03	0.04
Cereal and substitutes	--	--	0.16	0.02	0.11	0.01	--	--
Pulses	0.84	0.97	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: National Sample Survey,44th Round (July 1988 to June 1989) Survey on Household Consumer expenditure- Report No.30/92 Department of Statistics, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, p.11.

APPENDIX-6

Annual average wholesale prices of principal commodities inTirunelveli district during 1960-61,1970-71, and 1980-81 to 1985-86 (prices are in rupees per quintal of 100 kg.)

Sl.No.	*Principal commodities*	*1960-61*	*1970-71*	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*
1.	Paddy(common)	35.43	58.05	–	–	–	–	–	–
2.	Rice (II sort)	59.15	96.89	200.90	242.50	246.05	287.06	298.10	298.79
3.	Cholam	33.61	66.50	102.47	136.37	121.11	147.00	153.95	154.82
4.	Cumbu	–	67.04	90.48	131.89	124.27	128.27	130.66	155.85
5.	Ragi	30.18	59.47	111.79	122.63	121.99	154.06	145.30	156.71
6.	Cotton kapas	84.11	210.00	323.33	397.50	397.50	479.79	412.50	374.67
7.	Groundnut	45.31	131.36	–	–	426.00	476.98	458.33	444.44

Report from the Commissioner of Economics and Statistics, dated 29 November,1993.

APPENDIX-7

Wholesale prices of essential commodities prevailed in the district from 1986-87 to 1994-95 (prices are in Rupees in Quintal)

Commodities	*1986-87*	*1987-88*	*1988-89*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*
Paddy(Common)	–	209.16	220.11	171.79	185.85	209.88	274.30	316.23	320.52
Cholam	178.06	212.88	194.18	177.74	173.43	225.45	242.03	242.04	341.74
Cumbu	170.59	–	169.69	178.48	184.55	221.10	239.13	272.72	418.47
Ragi	166.52	185.70	198.34	181.12	180.12	234.85	248.13	310.24	320.36
Blackgram	471.76	500.00	666.66	592.41	687.58	720.75	677.74	1164.00	1432.00
Greengram	478.57	–	602.02	672.11	665.22	706.80	785.35	1050.00	1366.00
Cotton Kapas	450.00	743.75	675.71	444.80	767.25	1069.50	–	–	–
Groundnut Pod	500.00	597.19	519.34	680.28	525.45	614.13	605.20	902.72	–
Chillies	491.10	800.00	1716.67	1030.75	839.60	2046.00	1116.00	1231.00	1813.00
Gingelly seed	732.50	–	758.25	818.40	986.37	1053.92	1139.92	1134.00	2369.00
Canegur	378.00	–	348.57	474.30	489.90	372.00	465.00	878.00	–
Onion	111.54	165.00	117.86	100.44	151.13	230.18	93.00	331.00	174.38
Coconut(100)	139.00	197.14	132.69	118.11	147.25	221.09	–	32.50	–
Banana(100)	14.50	12.50	25.00	80.66	130.95	120.40	230.25	–	27.50
Palmgur	–	490.69	425.55	413.85	577.76	688.20	675.00	1318.33	799.80
Brinjal	–	–	–	128.34	144.15	143.22	–	481.00	232.00
Tomato	–	–	–	119.57	102.30	186.00	–	543.75	325.00
Lady's finger	–	--	–	123.23	186.23	140.90	–	375.00	279.00

Source: Season and Crop Report, Commissioner of Economics and Statistics Department 1986-87 to 1994-95.

APPENDIX - 8

Wholesale Price Index Trends - Tamil Nadu (Base 1970-71 - 100)

Year	Primary articles		Fuel, power light & lubricants		Manufactured products		All Commodities.,	
	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%	Index	%
1980-81	235.5	12.0	273.8	20.0	229.0	14.4	233.7	13.2
1981-82	276.5	17.5	313.8	14.5	257.0	12.2	269.0	15.1
1982-83	287.5	4.0	311.2	5.6	273.2	6.3	282.6	5.1
1983-84	324.3	12.8	376.6	13.7	290.6	6.4	311.2	10.1
1984-85	361.6	11.5	406.8	7.9	305.0	5.0	338.2	8.7
AAGR	--	11.6	--	12.3	--	8.9	--	10.4
1985-86	361.4	30.1	446.3	10.9	334.1	9.6	352.2	4.1
1986-87	398.5	10.3	473.2	6.0	375.2	12.3	390.7	10.9
1987-88	444.7	11.6	478.8	1.2	409.4	10.7	430.3	10.1
1988-89	480.4	8.0	488.5	2.0	427.0	2.8	457.1	6.1
1989-90	502.6	4.6	525.1	7.5	495.9	16.1	500.5	9.5
AAGR	--	6.9	--	5.5	--	10.3	--	8.2
1990-91	547.1	8.9	571.8	8.9	563.3	13.6	555.0	10.9
1991-92	626.3	14.5	658.1	15.1	636.0	12.9	631.6	13.8
1992-93	724.4	15.7	709.4	7.8	682.8	7.4	705.6	11.7
1993-94	730.4	0.8	723.1	1.9	726.0	8.3	728.2	3.2
1994-95	835.0	14.3	764.0	5.7	762.0	5.0	800.5	9.9
AAGR	--	10.8	--	7.9	--	9.0	--	9.9
Rate of increase for the decades								
1980's	--	9.2	--	8.8	--	9.6	--	9.3
1990's	--	10.8	--	7.9	--	9.0	--	9.9

AAGR - Annual Average Growth Rate.

APPENDIX - 9

Average rate of daily wages paid to Agricultural labour in the district during 1979-80 to 1987-88.

(wages are in rupees)

	Type of labour		*1979-80*	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
1.	Ploughmen without	M	5.52	6.39	7.04	8.51	10.59	11.16	11.01	11.03	13.62
	pullock.	W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Sowers and	M	6.84	8.29	8.00	7.87	9.08	9.89	9.98	14.00	13.04
	Pluckers of	W	4.88	4.98	5.00	5.59	7.07	6.78	6.25	5.67	8.03
	seedlings.										
3.	Transplanter and	M	5.42	5.00	5.52	5.67	6.80	7.85	11.86	-	8.06
	Weeders	W	4.15	4.23	4.97	5.52	6.49	6.31	6.52	6.23	7.73
4.	Reapers of	M	9.88	10.55	9.98	9.97	11.80	12.42	13.73	14.67	15.87
	harvestors.	W	6.51	6.81	7.01	7.70	9.30	8.30	8.57	10.40	10.20
5.	Other agricultural	M	8.74	12.29	11.41	11.43	12.22	12.54	13.73	14.52	18.11
	activities	W	5.14	8.27	7.70	6.66	7.54	7.51	6.90	7.67	11.78
6.	Tending cattle	M	2.20	3.53	3.00	6.89	7.71	7.20	7.69	11.00	16.10
		W	2.20	-	-	6.63	4.99	4.37	2.71	5.00	4.73

Season and Crop Report from 1979-80 to 1987-88. M- Men, W - Women.

APPENDIX-10

Agriculture and allied activities.

Sl.No.	Type of labour	Sex	District Average Wage in 1994	Minimum Wages Fixed by Govt. in April 1993.
1.	Ploughmen:			
	With Bullock and plough	Men	75.14	55.00
	Without bullock and plough.	Men	31.33	32.00
2.	Sowers	Men	32.17	32.00
		Women	21.67	32.00
3.	Pluckers of seedlings:	Men	25.01	30.00
		Women	20.01	30.00
4.	Transplanters:	Men	21.24	30.00
		Women	11.67	30.00
5.	Weeders:	Men	30.00	29.00
		Women	18.05	29.00
6.	Person employed for harvesting Paddy.	Men	43.50	32.00
		Women	33.00	32.00
7.	Harvesting crops Other than paddy.	Men	33.33	32.00
		Women	21.67	32.00
8.	Other agricultural operations:	Men	31.31	32.00
		Women	30.00	32.00
9.	Dairy Farmings:	Men	27.78	32.00
	i) Milking-1	Women	20.00	32.00
	ii) Tending of cattle	Men	19.00	32.00
		Women	10.00	32.00
	iii) Other operations			
	a) Skilled	Men	46.00	32.00
		Women	20.00	32.00
	b) Unskilled	Men	33.00	32.00
		Women	23.75	32.00
10.	Poultry farming	Men	20.00	32.00
		Women	18.00	32.00
11.	Bee-Keeping	Men	20.00	32.00
		Women	18.00	32.00
12.	Skilled workers:			
	i) Carpenters		51.98	–
	ii) Blacksmiths		51.17	–
	iii) Cobblers		42.67	–

APPENDIX - 11

Categorywise distribution of average daily wages paid to artisans in the urban areas of Tirunelveli district during the year 1994.

Grades/Towns	Carpenters		Blacksmiths		Masons		Bricklayers		General		Domestic	
	Superior	oridinary	Superior	Ordinary	Superior	Ordinary	Superior	Ordinary	Superior	Ordinary	Superior	Ordinary
1. Special Grade Tirunelveli.	60.00	55.00	60.00	55.00	65.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	30.00
2. First Grade Palayamkottai	60.00	55.00	60.00	55.00	65.00	55.00	40.00	35.00	40.00	35.00	35.00	30.00
Courtallam	60.00	50.00	--	--	70.00	60.00	--	--				
3. Second Grade Kadayanallur	50.00	--	50.00	--	50.00	--	40.00	--	30.00	15.00	20.00	–
Sankarankoil	55.00	50.00	60.00	50.00	55.00	50.00	45.00	30.00	45.00	25.00	20.00	–
Tenkasi	70.00	55.00	50.00	40.00	70.00	55.00--	--	40.00	25.00	--	--	
Melapalayam	60.00	55.00	60.00	55.00	60.00	50.00	35.00	30.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	
4. Third Grade Puliyankudi	60.00	45.00	75.00	50.00	60.00	50.00	55.00	50.00	45.00	35.00	20.00	30.00
Shengottah	52.50	35.00	52.50	43.75	52.50	35.00	43.75	35.00	30.62	17.50	15.00	21.50
District Average	58.60	50.00	58.44	49.82	60.83	50.63	42.68	35.00	37.29	26.94	24.00	27.50

APPENDIX 12

Automobile workshops.

Classes of Employees	Minimum rates of wages per month.			
	Zone-A Corporations	*Zone-B All types of Municipalities.*	*Zone-C Town-Panchayats and contonments.*	*Zone-D other Places*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
I. Administrative				
1. Manager	1550.00	1430.00	1320.00	1200.00
2. Asst.Manager	1430.00	1335.00	1225.00	1130.00
3. Accountant				
4. Cashier	1365.00	1270.00	1170.00	1075.00
5. Storekeeper				
6. Typist.				
7. Clerk	1290.00	1200.00	1115.00	1025.00
8. Time Keeper				
9. Attender	1175.00	1105.00	1025.00	945.00
10. Watchman	1010.00	945.00	885.00	830.00
11. Peon				
II. *Supervisory*				
1. Foreman	1550.00	1430.00	1320.00	1200.00
2. Supervisor	1430.00	1335.00	1225.00	1130.00
3. Chargeman				
4. Workshop-Tool Keeper.	1175.00	1105.00	1025.00	945.00
III. Skilled				
1. Mechanic	1430.00	1335.00	1225.00	1130.00
2. Bench Fitter	1365.00	1270.00	1170.00	1075.00
3. Asst.Mechanic				
4. Fitter				
5. Electrician				

APPENDIX - 12 (contd.)

1	2	3	4	5
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
6. Blacksmith				
7. Carpenter				
8. Tinker				
9. Turner				
10. Liner				
11. Spray Painter	1290.00	1200.00	115.00	1025.00
12. Asst.Foreman				
13. Welder				
14. Machinist				
15. Tailor.				
16. Moulder	1190.00	1110.00	1030.00	955.00
17. Painter	1290.00	1200.00	1115.00	1025.00
18. Winder				
19. Tyreman				
20. Batteryman				
21. Vulcaniser				
22. Asst.Machinist	1175.00	1105.00	1025.00	945.00
23. Asst. Welder				
24. Workshop Driver				
25. Greaser	1050.00	985.00	955.00	850.00
IV. Semi skilled	1215.00	1140.00	1060.00	980.00
1. Asst.Fitter				
2. Asst.Blacksmith				
3. Asst.Tinker				
4. Asst.Electrician				
5. Asst.Painter	1140.00	1065.00	990.00	915.00
6. Hammerman				
7. Lubricating Asst	1080.00	1015.00	945.00	880.00
8. Fitter Helper				
V. Un skilled.				
1. Scavenger	1010-00	945.00	885.00	830.00
2. Sweeper				
3. Cleaner				
5. Water Carrier				
6. Petrol Pump Operator.				

APPENDIX-13

Public Motor Transport

Sl.No.	*Class of employees*	*Minimum rates of wages per mensem.*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	Mechanic	1465.00
2.	Driver including those employed by Tourist Car Operators.	1340.00
3.	Assistant Mechanic	
4.	Fitter	
5.	Electrician	
6.	Inspector	1290.00
7.	Clerk	1340.00
8.	Conductor	1240.00
9.	Assistant Fitter	1240.00
10.	Hammer Man	1115.00
11.	Greaser	1115.00
12.	Peon	1060.00
13.	Scavenger	
14.	Watchman	
15.	Sweeper	
16.	Blacksmith	1340.00
17.	Carpenter	
18.	Tinker	
19.	Turner	
20.	Liner	
21.	Spray painter	
22.	Welder	
23.	Tailor	1290.00
24.	Moulder	
25.	Painter	1290.00
26.	Tyreman	
27.	Bateryman	
28.	Vulcaniser and the like	1240.00
29.	*Floor Supervisory*	
	i) Regulation of parking of vehicles.	1465.00
	ii) Cleanliness of vehicles and workyard.	

APPENDIX - 13 (contd.)

1	2	3
	iii) Supervision of washing and lubrication of vehicles.	
	(iv) Road testing of vehicles in which defect is reported.	
30.	Typist (a)for qualified typist that is those who have passed the Govt.Technical Examination in the Typewriting by higher grade.	1465.00
31.	Typist (b)for those who have passed the Govt.Technical Examination in Typewriting in lower grade.	1400.00
32.	Storekeeper	1400.00
33.	Shroff or Cashier	
34.	Depot Starter	
35.	Bench Fitter	
36.	Parking Controller(Regulation of parking vehicles, supervision washing and lubrication)	1340.00
37.	Machinist	1340.00
38.	Ticket Checking clerk or Book clerk	1290.00
39.	Lubricating Inspector	1290.00
40.	Radiator Fitter	
41.	Electroplater	
42.	Workshop time keeper	
43.	Winder	
44.	Time Keeper and stand Agent	
45.	Asst.Blacksmith	
46.	Asst.Tyreman	1240.00
47.	Asst.Tinker	
48.	Attender	
49.	Asst.Electrician	1240.00
50.	Controller	
51.	Asst.Machinist	
52.	Asst.Welder	
53.	Asst.Tailor'	
54.	Workshop Toolkeeper	
55.	Asst.Painter	1175.00
56.	Lubricating Assistant	1115.00
57.	Fitter Helper	1115.00

APPENDIX - 13 (contd.)

1	2	3
58.	Charcoal man	1060.00
59.	Helper	
60.	Mazdoor and the like	
61.	Cleaner (Ordinary)	
62.	Cleaner (Spl., and stand)	
63.	Water carrier	
64.	Petrol Pump Operator	

APPENDIX-14

Coir Manufacturing Unit

Classes of employees (1)	*Minimum rates of wages.* (2)
I. Skilled	Rs. Ps.
1. Driver	950.00 per month
2. Machine man	
3. Mechanic	
4. Operator	
II. Semi skilled	
1. Driver (Helper)	
2. Assistant Mechanics	875.00 per month
3. Defibering Mechanic	
4. Crusher	
III. Unskilled	
1. Turbo Cleaner	725.00 per month
2. Machine Cleaner	
3. Drying Yard Carrier	
IV Piece work in Hosting	
1. Splitting,transporting of husks to rolling yard and putting it into pit of soaking (for 1000 husks)	41.25
2. Counting of husks (1000 husks)	6.93
3. Removal of split husks from the pit (for 1000 husks)	11.60
4. Beating of rotted-husks (100 rotted husks)	10.73

APPENDIX - 14 (contd)

(1)	(2)
V. *Muppiri Coir twisting*	
1. 1.80 metre- one bundle of 100 coir each.	65.92
2. 15 metre - one bundle of 100 coir each.	65.92
3. 2.88 metres-one bundle of 100 coir each.	92.24
4. 3.60 metre-one bundle of 100 coir each.	118.00
5. 4.32 metre-one bundle of 100 coir each.	144.89
(2) Machine Cleaned Fibre twisting:	
1. 1.80 metre-one bundle of 100 coir each.	52.55
2. 2.16 metre - one bundle of 100 coir each.	52.55
3. 2.88 metre - one bundle of 100 coir each.	74.00
4. 3.69 metre-one bundle of 100 coir each.	94.45
5. 4.32 metre-one bundle of 100 coir each.	114.75
VI. *Rope Making*	
1. For converting 33 kg. of fibre into 4.50 cm. ropes	50.90
2. For converting 33 kg. of fibre into 5.00 cm. ropes	46.12
3. For converting 33 kg. of fibre into 10.00 cm. ropes	39.68
4. For converting 33 kg. of fibre into 3.80 cm. ropes	52.55
VII. *Mat making*	24.50 per day
VIII. *Bundling*	24.50 per day.

APPENDIX-15

General Engineering and Fabrication Industry

Classes of Employees 1	Minimum rates of wages. (Rupees / month) 2	 3
I. General Categories:	Zone-A	Zone-B
1. Manager	1425.00	1330.00
2. Asst.Manager	1340.00	1250.00
3. Accountant	1340.00	1250.00
4. Cashier	1280.00	1195.00
5. Store-keeper	1280.00	1195.00
6. Typist-clerk	1280.00	1195.00
7. Clerk	1230.00	1150.00
8. Time-Keeper	1140.00	1065.00
9. Attender	1140.00	1065.00
10. Security Guard	1140.00	1065.00
11. Watchman	980.00	915.00
12. Peon	980.00	915.00
II Supervisory:		
1. Foreman	1425.00	1330.00
2. Supervisor	1340.00	1250.00
3. Chargeman	1340.00	1250.00
4. Workshop Toolkeeper	1140.00	1065.00
III. Skilled:		
Persons having experience for a period of five years in the particular trade or the person possess trade certificate including I.T.I with experience for a period of three years in a particular trade	per day 43.00	per day 40.00
IV. Semi skilled.		
1. All trade certificate holder including I.T.I. (Grade-I)	39.00	36.00

APPENDIX - 15 (contd.)

1	2	3
2. Persons who worked as helpers for not less than two years in a particular trade (Grade-II)	36.50	34.00
V. Unskilled:		
Person doing work which do not require any training.	33.00	31.00

Classification of Zone:Zone- A - All district headquarters, corporations and Municipalities Zone-B - Other places.

APPENDIX-16

Hospitals and Nursing Homes (Other than Government)

Sl.No.	*Classes of Employees/Workers*	*Minimum rates of basic wages per month.*
1	2	3
1.	Junior Medical Officer	1740.00
2.	Junior Doctor/House Surgeon	1245.00
3.	Physiotherapist	1245.00
4.	Nursing Superintendent	1740.00
5.	Administrative Officer	1440.00
6.	Bio-chemist	1440.00
7.	Staff Nurse	1340.00
8.	Ancilliary Nursing Midwife	945.00
9.	Female Nursing orderly and male nursing orderly	715.00
10.	House Keeper	715.00
11.	Dietician (qualified)	1045.00
12.	Accountant	
13.	Cashier	
14.	Office Assistant	815.00
15.	Typist	
16.	Receptionist	
17.	Laboratory Technician (Graduate)	1045.00

APPENDIX - 16 (Contd...)

1	2	3
18.	LaboratoryTechnician (Non-graduate)	815.00
19.	a. Electrician (qualified)	815.00
	b. Electrician (un-qualified)and lift boy.	675.00
20.	Air condition plant Mechanic	815.00
21.	Radio grapher	1045.00
22.	Driver	715.00
23.	Watchman	715.00
24.	Storekeeper	815.00
25.	Ward Boy	675.00
26.	Tailor	715.00
27.	Compounder/Pharmacist	815.00
28.	Scavenger/Sweeper/Gardener	
29.	Any other category of unskilled employee	675.00

APPENDIX - 17

Powerloom Industry

Sl.No.	*Class of work*	*Minimum rates of wages (per metre) in paise.*
1	*2*	*3*
I.	*Weavers cotton:*	
	1. Pick 36	23
	2. " 40	26
	3. " 42	26
	4. " 44	26
	5. " 46	30
	6. " 48	30
	7. " 50	30
	8. " 52	30
	9. " 56	35
	10. " 60	36
	11. " 64	41
	12. " 68	44
	13. " 70	45
	14. " 44 Dhoties	27

APPENDIX - 17 (contd.)

1		2	3	
15.	"	52	35	
16.	"	56	41	
17.	"	68-72 Special (Double loom) Dhoties,	68	
		(single loom)	135	
18.		Coarse Bedsheets 36-40 plain	63	
19.		Dril varieties 31,36,38,38-40 picks	49	
20.		Derry varieties 60,28,30,32 picks	108	
21.		Jacquard varieties 48,54,60-30, 32 picks	108	
II.	*Synthetic :*			
22.	pick	36 plain	24	
23.	"	36 jari	30	
24.	"	36 kottari	35	
25.	"	36/44 Nagpur kottari	41	
26.	"	36 Jacquard	42	
27.	"	36/42 Dhoti	30	
28.	"	36/52 Dhoti	36	
29.	"	36/56/60 Dhoti	45	
30.	"	36/38 Saree variety	62	
31.	"	36/40 Saree variety	62	
32.	"	36/42 Fine saree variety	71	
33.	"	36/42 Art silk	90	
34.	"	52/56 Art silk	99	
III.	*Other workers:*			
1.	Winder		145.00	per week
2.	Warper		177.00	"
3.	Warper Helper		158.00	"
4.	Sizor		224.00	"
5.	Cooker		250.00	"
6.	Back Sizer		187.00	
7.	Calenderman		214.00	
8.	Boiler Attender		177.00	
9.	Calender Helper		177.00	
10.	Drioer and Reacher(together)		5.65	per 100
11.	Clerk/Maistry		745.00	per month.
12.	Weaver helper		250.00	per week.
13.	Cleaner oiler		13.33	per day.

APPENDIX-18

Hotels and Restaurants

Classes of employees.		*Minimum rates of basic wages per month*		
		Zone-A	*Zone-B*	*Zone-C*
		Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.
1.	Grade-I	705.00	685.00	660.00
2.	Grade-II	675.00	640.00	615.00
3.	Grade-III	640.00	615.00	585.00
4.	Grade-IV	610.00	585.00	575.00
5.	Grade-V	585.00	575.00	565.00

Zone-A : Shall comprise of all Municipal Corporations and Special Grade Municipalities.

Zone-B : Shall comprise of all Municipalities other than Special Grade Municipalities.

Zone-C : Shall comprise of all areas other than Municipal Corporations and Municipalities.

The Grades-I, II, III, IV and V shall comprise of the following categories of employees namely:

Grade-I: 1. Head Cook 2. Head Baker 3.Sweet and Savoury maker 4. Receptionist 5.Supervisor 6.Clerk (including bill writer) 7.Steno-typist 8.Typist 9.Telephone Operator 10.Cashier 11.Assistant Manager 12.Accountant 13.Purchase Officer 14.Biriyani Master

Grade-II: 1. Assistant cook 2. Baker 3. Steward 4. Barman 5. Head House Keeper 6. Pantry in-charge

Grade-III: 1. Assistant Cook (Chinna Aduppu) 2. Dosai maker 3. Idly maker 4. Ice cream, coffee, tea and milk preparer 5.Parotta and Rotti maker 6. Head waiter 7. Grinder8. Driver 9. Electrician 10.Air-condition Mechanic 11.Plumber 12.Carpenter13.Tailor 14. Watchman and Security Guard.

Grade-IV: 1. Supplier 2. Room Server 3.Waiter 4. Bearer 5.Assistant 6. Vegetable Cutter 7. Coffee Frayer and Grinder 8. Pantryman 9. Mikkals 10. Kitchen Assistant 11. Stall Server.

Grade-V: 1. Cleaners of all categories (such as vessel cleaners, Plate washers and Table cleaners) 2. Room attendant 3. Luggage Carriers , 4. Laskar 5. Masalchi 6. Gardener 7. Chambermaid 8. Water Carrier 9. Office boy 10. Page boy 11. Lift Operator.

APPENDIX - 19

Shops and Commercial Establishments

Classes of employees.	*Minimum rates of wages per month*			
	Zone-A	*Zone-B*	*Zone-C*	*Zone-D*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
1. General Categories:				
1. Manager				
2. Sales Manager	1050.00	1025.00	1000.00	980.00
3. Field Officer				
4. Development Officer				
5. Office Incharge				
6. Asst.Manager				
7. Accountant				
8. Supervisor				
9. Sales Executive	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
10. Purchaser				
11. Store-keeper				
12. Agent				
13. Sales promotion employees.				
2. Photo studios:				
1. Photographer	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
2. Photo Artist				
3. Asst.Photo Artist	800.00	770.00	740.00	715.00
4 Asst.Photographer.				
3. Service Shops (Watch/Radio/Bicycles):				
1. Watch Machanic				
2. Radio Mechanic/ Repairer	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
3. Audio/video mechanic/repairer				
4 Bicycle fitter	770.00	820.00	710.00	600.00

APPENDIX - 19 (contd.)

1	2	3	4	5
4. Optical Shops:				
1. Optical Mechanic Grinder and Purchaser	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
2. Refrectionary man				
5. Block Making And Rubber Stamp Making:				
1. Engraver	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
2. Block maker				
3. Asst.Engraver	800.00	770.00	740.00	715.00
4. Painter/Artist	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
6. Electrical Light And Sound Service Shop.				
1. Electrician/ Wireman	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
2. Asst.Wireman	800.00	770.00	740.00	715.00
3. Mike operator				
7. Diagnostic Laboratory				
1. Radiographer	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
2. X-Ray Photographer				
3. Laboratory Technician				
8. Chit Funds and Co-operative Societies.				
1. Chief Accountant	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
2. Secretary				
3. Auditor				
4. Personal Assistant				
5. Junior Development	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
6. Legal Assistant				
9. Boarding and Lodges.				
1. Room Boy	770.00	740.00	710.00	680.00
2. Canvasser				
3. Masan				
4. Plumber				
5. Painter	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
6. Electrician				
10. Furniture.				
1. Carpenter				
2. Polisher	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
3. Rattan worker				

APPENDIX - 19 (contd.)

1	2	3	4	5
11. Miscellaneous workers				
1. Tehnician in musical instrument shop.				
2. Umbrella Fitting, stitching and cutting in umbrella shop.	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
3. Polisher in Automobile dealer shop				
4. Suit case/All kinds of bags and Purse makers (Other than leather)				
5. Operator in Petrol Bunks	770.00	740.00	710.00	880.00
6. Photo Frame worker and Cutter	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
7. Skilled Labour in lift installing establishments	845.00	820.00	795.00	770.00
8. Air condition plant Operator				
9. Fruit Juice and Lassi makers in the shops	800.00	770.00	740.0	715.00
10 Engraver in Steel and Aluminium vessels shops	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
11. Fire Wood Cutter in Fire Wood shop	800.00	170.00	740.00	715.00
12. Tyre, Grinder in tyre re-selling Retreading and Tube Valcanizing shops.	825.00	795.00	765.00	740.00
13. Workers engaged in drying, storing, washing, measuring, loading and unloading in Pandagasalai and Warehouse godowns store rooms and bill produce merchant shops.	770.00	740.00	710.00	680.00
14. General Workers in all shops and commercial establishments other than in Administration and Clerical cadre and who are not covered in any. of the above categories.	770.00	740.00	710.00	680.00

APPENDIX-20

Categorywise details on account of unemployment relief given to registered unemployed persons yearwise, categoriwise, since inception of the scheme.

Year	*Graduates*		*H.S.C.*		*S.S.L.C*		*Blind*	
	No.of candi-dates	*Amount. in Rs.*	*No.of candi-dates*	*Amount in Rs.*	*No.of candi-dates*	*Amount in Rs.*	*No.of candi-dates*	*Amount in Rs.*
1984-85	334	231200	420	115838	2281	409550	8	3000
1985-86	235	479750	430	512450	1119	1738731	15	8450
1986-87	145	663800	768	1192700	1426	2280123	22	12900
1987-88	155	460667	874	1333278	1265	1624778	5	750
1988-89	179	439295	900	1503284	1365	1572213	23	13800
1989-90	155	538798	804	1999970	1465	1799979	32	25539
1990-91	169	599930	868	899962	1540	1999990	79	84332
1991-92	196	619406	577	2075830	1059	2121055	78	117750
1992-93	156	449975	601	1702550	1329	2028639	96	231447
1993-94 (upto 30-9-1994)	498	62375	2344	522365	3929	623759	109	92300

Report from the District Employment officer - Tirunelveli district dated 26 August 1993.

APPENDIX -21

The Target and Achievement under Integrated Rural Development Programme in the District during 1992-93 to 1995-96 (upto June)

Years	Target		Achievement				Remarks		
	Physical No.	Financial No. (Rs.in lakhs)	Physical	Percentage	Financial (Rs.in lakhs)	Percentage	SC/ST	Women	Physically handi capped
1992-93	6231	220.259	7230	116.00	235.115	107.0	3765	2968	227
1993-94	9271	359.661	11739	127.00	431.090	120.0	5929	5908	227
1994-95	7583	379.200	11207	147.70	457.440	120.60	6014	5203	325
1995-96 (Upto June)	–	378.840	1372	–	66.500	17.50	702	601	24

APPENDIX - 22

J.V.V.T. Achievement details for 1993-94

Sl.no.	*Name of work.*	*Achievement* *Physical No.*	*Financial (Rs.in lakhs.)*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
1.	Group houses	1029	196.242
2.	School building	62	87.810
3.	Noon-meal Centre	42	34.090
4.	Panchayat office buildings	62	106.960
5.	Veterinary dispensaries	5	10.240
6.	Jeevandhara wells	97	62.343
7.	Minor irrigation tanks	37	100.240
8.	Percolation ponds	35	85.316
9.	Temple tanks	9	13.000
10.	Road works.		
	a) Metal roads	66 km.	167.891
	b) B.T.Roads	--	4.036
11.	Small bridges	--	2.000
12.	80% Village panchayat works.	690	106.350
13.	Panchayat maintenance.	165	14.400
14.	Thrashing floors	28	17.750
15.	Kitchen shed	32	8.210
16.	Bus-shelter	9	3.610
17.	T.V.Room	13	4.330
18.	Burial ground shed	29	5.000
19.	Burial ground Road	18	4.440
20.	School buildings repaired	38	6.205
21.	Noon-meal centres repaired	37	4.555
22.	Social forestry	600 hect.	28.180
23.	Administrative expenditure	---	45.658
		2441	1135.606
		66km.	
		600 hect.	

APPENDIX - 23

J.V.V.T.1994-95 Achievement details

Sl.no.	Name of work.	Achievement Physical No.	Achievement Financial (Rs.in lakhs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Group houses	1672	354.483
2.	School buildings	59	87.797
3.	Noon- meal centre	12	8.948
4.	Panchayat office building	50	31.430
5.	Veterinary dispensaries	14	3.660
6.	Public distribution outlets	15	2.145
7.	Small bridges	3	1.300
8.	Metal roads	11	111.870
9.	Jeevandhara wells	52	169.337
10.	Minor Irrigation tank	153	60.011
11.	Ex.Zamin tanks	16	20.000
12.	Percolation ponds	40	72.000
13.	Temple tanks	10	15.000
14.	80% Panchayat tanks	674	57.450
15.	Panchayat maintenance	254	23.260
16.	Pathway to Burial ground	182	74.200
17.	Link Roads	77	28.000
18.	Thrashing floor	31	1.720
19.	Kitchen shed	30	1.090
20.	Bus shelter	9	0.590
21.	T.V.Room	10	0.210
22.	Burial ground shed	16	0.400
23.	Community hall	-	24.000
24.	Social forestry	B20 hect.	29.110
			1178.071

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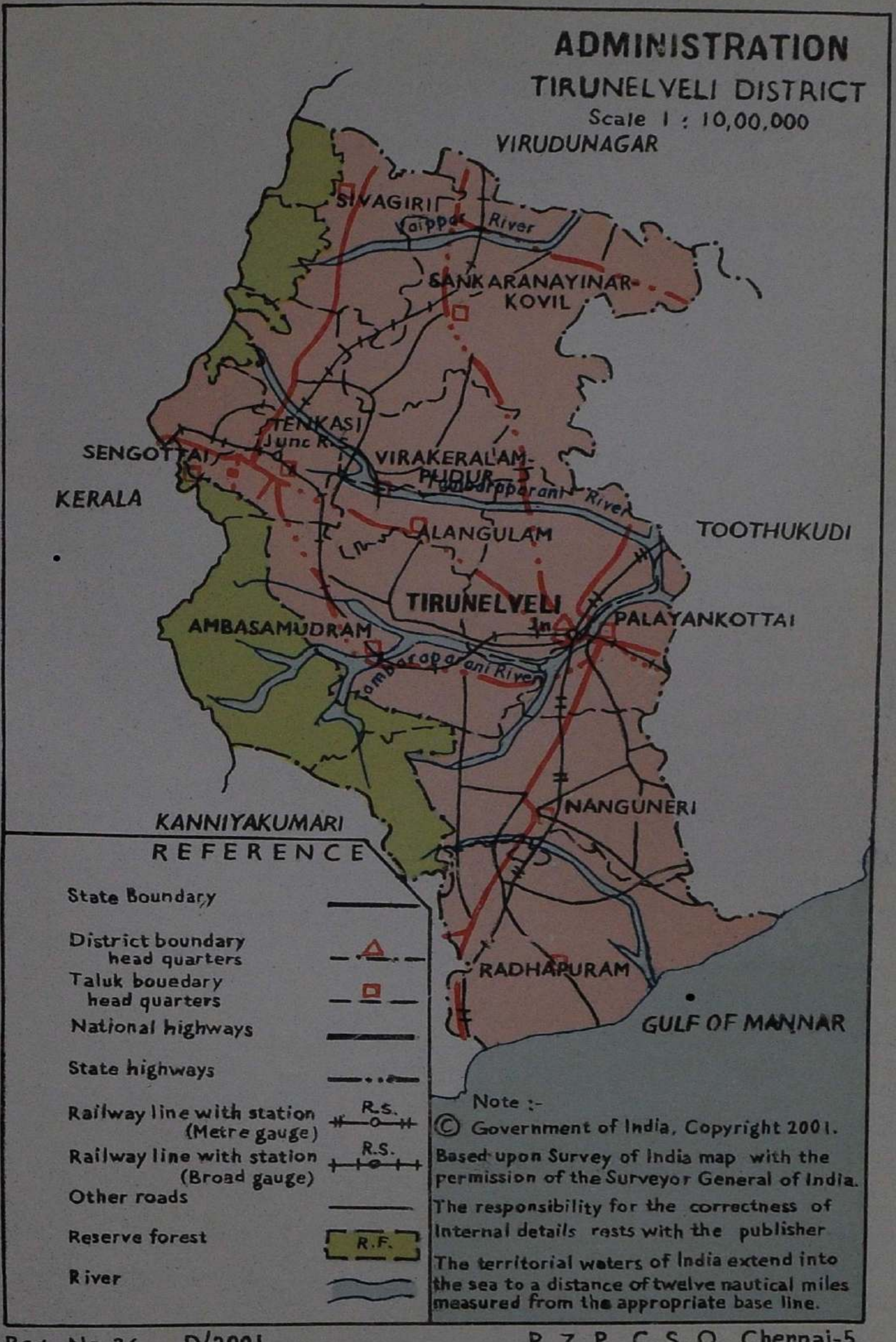

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CHAPTER - 9

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The administrative apparatus of the government plays a vital role in the control and direction of the district's life. The concept of Governance has changed greatly since the days of proper law and order administration. Today the administraive system of the district is much more elaborate and complex than what it was.

In this chapter, the origin and growth of the general aspect of the present system of administration is dealt with. The spectrum of the administrative structure and its method of functioning, its problems and future scope are also narrated.

It is difficult to administer a country efficiently without dividing it into sizeable units and placing each of them under the charge of a representative of the King of the Government. This fact was well realised in ancient and mediaeval periods in India; and, each successive empires and kingdoms in South India were each divided into different administrative units. But as it is seen in the sequel the nomenclature of such divisions differed from region to region and from period to period.[1]

There was no authentic historic data about the district as an administrative unit upto 500 A.D. However, something can be gleaned from the available writings of Megasthanese, the Greek Ambassadar and other foreign travellers. They show that the Pandyan Kingdom was in a very prosperous condition in B.C 269 to 302. Korkai, a port known to early Greeks near the north of Tamiraparani, was the earliest Pandyan Capital in composite Tirunelveli District.[2]

General Administration in Ancient Period

In the Sangam Age, the Tamil country was divided among the three crowned heads of South India, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas, and the areas over which they ruled were respectively known as Cheranadu, Cholanadu and Pandyanadu. The present Tirunelveli district was included in the Pandya country and was known as Tenpandinadu.[3]The southern parts of Tamil country appears to have been divided into units known as *nadus*. Probably, they were independent political units, originally and after their conquest by a greater power, they were retained as subordinate administrative units under the conquerors and were allowed to retain their original names. All these administrative divisions appear to have been made up of a number of villages, there being no intermediary divisions between them. The 'Kurram' or 'Kottam' in the Tamil country, the 'Ahare' under the Satavahanas, the 'Rastra' under the early Pallavas and the 'Visaya' in still later times in the Deccan seem to have been the largest administrative division in the early period of South Indian history. Probably

the rulers of the period had a preference for a large number of small divisions like districts for administrative purpose rather than a small number of large ones, which became the normal feature of the administrative divisions of the empires in later periods of South Indian history.[4]

In the hey day of its prosperity, the Chola empire was divided into nine provinces called Mandalas, many of which bore a prefix which was the title of the king with whom probably the formation of the provinces was associated. One of the nine provinces was Rajaraja Pandimandalam to the south of Madurai which corresponds to the modern districts of Tamilnadu. The Provinces of Mandalas were further divided into a number of *Valanadus*. The Valanadu as an administrative of political unit is mentioned for the first time in an inscription of Chola Rajaraja in 1003 A.D.[5]

During the Vijayanagara period, however, the Mandalams lost their importance as political or administrative divisions and the empire appears to have been divided into a number of Rajyas, each of which was smaller than a Mandalam. Though occasionally mention is made of the mandalas even then, they had no administrative significance. The formation of the Rajya largely depended on historical accidents than on any definite principle or policy.[6] The Valanadu in its turn was divided into a number of Nadus, which were at times called Kurrams or Kottams. The Nadus were each divided into Aimbadinmelagaram or Units of fifty villages. Each such division appears to have had a chief village. For example, Valudilambattu Usavadi was the Chief place and probably the headquarters of an Aimbadinmelagaram. Under it was the agaram or mangalam each of which in its turn consisted of a few villages referred to as Pidagai in the Tamil districts.[7]

Apart from the Governors of the provinces appointed by the kings, there were a number of heads of administrative units bearing various official designations indicative of their position in the general administrative set up. Their powers, responsibilities and general relations with the Centre must have varied from time to time. The kingdoms were divided into a number of provinces and each of which had an appointed Governor, who belonged to the royal families.[8]

The Nayaks ruled Tirunelveli from Madurai during the 16th, 17th and early years of the 18th Centuries. After the fall of the Nayaks, the country passed into the hands of the Nawab of Carnatic in AD 1736.[9] (The details of political changes in South India has been dealt with in the Chapter on *HISTORY*.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE DISTRICT

Administrative Division

History of the Revenue Divisions

The Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur taluks constituting the Thoothukkudi division were under the charge of a Sub-Collector stationed at Thoothukkudi; a Sub-Collector at Tirunelveli was incharge of Tirunelveli and Tenkasi taluks, which formed the Tirunelveli division; the Cheranmahadevi comprising Ambasamudram and Nanguneri formed the division of the Sub-Collector, Cheranmahadevi ; the Kovilpatti division made up of the taluks of Kovilpatti and Sankaranayanar Koil, was under a Deputy Collector, whose headquarters was at Kovilpatti in the composite Tirunelveli District.[10]

Upto 1911, Srivilliputhur and Sattur taluks formed part of Tirunelveli. They were attached to the newly formed Ramnad district in 1911.The old Tirunelveli upto 1911 had nine taluks under four Revenue Divisional Officers. The old Srivaikuntam was split into two taluks, viz., Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur in 1911 resulting in eight taluks on the whole under four Revenue Divisional Officers. It was on this occasion that the Kulasekarapatnam Deputy Tahsildar's division was abolished. In 1931, one of the Revenue Divisions, viz., Kovilpatti and the Deputy Tahsildar's sub-taluk at Sathankulam were abolished as a measure of retrenchment.[11]

The administrative divisions of the district in 1931, were as under-

1. *Sermadevi (I.C.S. Division)*
    1. Ambasamudram taluk
    2. Nanguneri taluk
    3. Tenkasi taluk and
    4. Tangacherry and Anjengo - Sub- taluks
2. *Tinnelveli (Deputy Collector's Division)*
    1. Tinnelveli taluk
    2. Sankaranayanar Koil taluk
3. *Tuticorin (I.C.S. Division)*
    1. Srivaikuntam taluk
    2. Tiruchendur taluk
    3. Kovilpatti taluk

There were four taluks of Deputy Tahsildars' Divisions in this district, viz., Vilatikulam, Tuticorin, Palayamkottai and Radhapuram.[12]

In 1951, there were three Revenue Divisions in this district, with their headquarters at Tuticorin , Tirunelveli and Cheranmahadevi. Kovilpatti, Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur taluks were comprised in Tuticorin Division. Sankaranayanar Koil and Tirunelveli taluks formed the Tirunelveli Division; Ambasamudram, Tenkasi and Nanguneri constituted the Cheranmahadevi division. When Sengottai taluk was added to this district, in 1956, it was included in the Cheranmahadevi Division.[13]

In 1953, the sub-taluk of Sathankulam of Tiruchendur taluk, which was abolished in 1949, ordered to be restored with the Sathankulam Revenue firka villages Kattarimangalam, Mirankulam (Thekankulam), Srivenkatesapuram, Karungadal, Inam Pirandakulam and Inam Karuvelampadu in Alwartirunagiri firka and villages Chettiapathu, Lakshmipuram, Mengnanapuram, Nangaimazhi, Semmarikulam, Venkataramanujapuram, Inam Vagaivilai in Uthangudi firka.[14]

In 1955, the following villages of Tenkasi taluk were transferred to Sankarankoil taluk. 1) Marudankinaru, 2) Karisalkulam, 3) Komarudappapuram, 4) Kovilankulam, 5) Ilandaikulam, 6) Kurukkalpatti and, 7) Narikkudi. The villages Vagaikulam and Kurichikulam of Tenkasi were transferred to Tirunelveli taluk.[15] Alangulam village of Kovilpatti taluk was added to Sankarankoil taluk.[16]

In 1959, for the purpose of general administration, on the recommendations of the Revenue Re-organisation Committee, a new division with headquarters at Kovilpatti came into existence on 1st April, 1959 and thus the Revenue Division in the district increased from three to four.[17]

The following statement shows consequent re-distribution of taluks among the divisions.

Administrative set up of the district (Prior to bifurcation)

Revenue Division	*Headquarter*	*Jurisdiction (Taluk)*	*Taluk Headquarters*
Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	1. Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli
		2. Tenkasi	Tenkasi
		3. Sengottai	Sengottai
Cheranmahadevi	Cheranmahadevi	1. Ambasamudram	Ambasamudram
		2. Nanguneri	Nanguneri
		3. Radhapuram	Radhapuram
		(*Vide* G.O.Ms.No.1871, Revenue, dated13.7.1981)	

Revenue Division	Headquarter	Jurisdiction (Taluk)	Taluk Headquarters
Tuticorin	Tuticorin	1.Srivaikuntam	Srivaikuntam
		2.Tiruchendur	Tiruchendur
		3. Sathankulam	Sathankulam
		(Vide G.O.Ms. No.1454, Revenue,dt. 4.7.1979)	
Kovilpatti	Kovilpatti	1.Kovilpatti	Kovilpatti
		2.Sankarankoil	Sankarankoil
		3.Ottapidaram	Ottapidaram
		(Vide G.O.Ms. No.1054, Revenue dt.16.5.1977)	

Kovilpatti taluk from Tuticorin division and Sankaranayanar koil taluk from Tirunelveli Division were taken up to form the new Kovilpatti Division. Sengottai and Tenkasi taluks taken from Cheranmahadevi Division were attached to the Tirunelveli Division. In this district, Tuticorin and Cheranmahadevi were I.A.S. Divisions.[18]

The Tirunelveli district has been demarcated into three revenue divisions, viz., Tirunelveli, Cheranmahadevi and Tenkasi, on the bifurcation of composite Tirunelveli district into two districts, viz. Tirunelveli district and Chidambaranar district on 20th October 1986. The Tirunelveli revenue division consists of Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Sankarankoil taluks; Cheranmahadevi revenue division includes the taluks of Ambasamudram, Nanguneri and Radhapuram and Tenkasi revenue division comprises Tenkasi, Sengottai and Sivagiri taluks. Tenkasi revenue division was created in 1986.[19]

The revenue divisions are administered by the Deputy Collectors/ Sub-Collectors, who are in turn assisted by the taluk Tahsildars. The taluks have been divided into Zones which in turn are divided into revenue firkas. While there are Zonal Deputy Tahsildars for each zone, there are Revenue Inspectors for firkas.

The district now comprises of ten taluks. The statement below shows the consequent redistribution of taluks among the divisions in Tirunelveli district.[20]

Administrative set up of the district

Name of the division 1	*Name of the taluk / sub-taluk* 2	*Names of firkas included in the taluks* 3
Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	Manur
		Madava Kurichi
		Gangaikondan
		Thalaiyuthu
		Naranammalpuram
		Tirunelveli
	Palayamkottai	Melapattam
		Munnirapallam
		Sivanthipatti
		Palayamkottai
	Sankarankoil	Kurakkalpatti
		Vannikonendal
		Pazhamkottai
		Ilayarasanendal
		Thiruvengadam
		Karisalkulam
		Sankarankoil
		Karivalam Vandanallur
		Veerasigamani
		Sendamangalam
Cheranmahadevi	Ambasamudram	Cheranmahadevi
		Melaseval
		Pappakudi
		Mukkudal
		Singampatti
		Ambasamudram
		Alwarkurichi
		Kadayam

Name of the division 1	Name of the taluk / sub-taluk 2	Names of firkas included in the taluks 3
	Nanguneri	Kalakkadu
		Poolam
		Eruvadi
		Vijayanarayanam
		Nanguneri
		Moolakkaraipatti
	Radhapuram	Tisayanvilai
		Levinjipuram
		Palavoor
		Panagudi
		Valliyoor
		Radhapuram
Tenkasi	Tenkasi	Kadayanallur
		Panpozhi
		Kilapavoor
		Alangulam
		Tenkasi
	Sengottai	Sengottai
		Ayikudy
	Sivagiri	Gudalur
		Vasudevanallur
		Puliangudi
		Sivagiri
	Veerakeralampudur	Kadayanallur(Estate)
		Veerakeralampudur
		Karuventha
		Uthumalai.

Tirunelveli is the headquarters of the District Collector, Revenue Divisional Officer of the Tirunelveli Revenue Division, Tahsildar of Tirunelveli taluk and Revenue Inspectors of Tirunelveli firkas. Besides the Revenue Department, every department of the Government of Tamilnadu has its district, regional or zonal headquarters in the town. As the district has been divided into Revenue divisions for general and revenue administration,

the department of Rural Development has Divisional Development Officers, Panchayat Unions or Block Development Officers. The Department of Education has been functioning under the Chief Educational Officers in the Revenue district, District Educational Officers in Education District and into ranges under the charge of Assistant Educational Officers. Similarly, the Health, Police, Judicial, Registration, Co-operation, Agriculture, Commercial Taxes, Agricultural Income Tax, Electricity Board , Highways, Public Works, Tamil Development and Culture, Labour, Social Welfare departments and other departments have their district offices and they have divided the district into Divisions, Zones, Ranges, etc. to their administrative convenience. These details are dealt with in the respective chapters, viz., *Education, Medical And Public Health Services, Local Self Government, Agriculture And Irrigation, Other Departments*, etc., The general administration of the district mostly rests with the Collector and his subordinate officers in the district and hence, these details alone, is dealt with in this Chapter.

The headquarters of most of the taluks are located in the towns for the helpful service to the people of the taluk without hardship to travel long distance. The firkas are called after villages or towns and most of them have residential-*cum*-headquarters of Revenue Inspectors. In other cases, the Revenue Inspector's Office is located in the respective taluk offices. With a view to avoid difficulties to the public, who have to trek several kilometres together to taluk offices for getting pattas, various certificates, etc., and to further streamline the revenue administration, two or more 'firkas' have been joined together to form a 'zone' under the charge of a Zonal deputy Tahsildar. In the official hierarchy below the Revenue Inspectors are Village Administrative Officers.

Administrative Hierarchy

All governmental functions in the State are discharged on behalf of His Excellency, the Governor of the State, and the Cabinet functions on his behalf. As far as the Revenue Department is concerned, the Chief Minister and the Minister for Revenue are the highest decision making authorities in the State. They are assisted by the Chief Secretary and the Revenue Secretary, who in turn are assisted by a number of Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries and other attached staff of the Revenue Department of the Secretariat. Next to the Government level at Secretariat, are the heads of departments. They are Principal Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Commissioner of Land Reforms, Commissioner of Land Administration and Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise. The District Collector is under the administrative and supervisory control of these departments. These departments were created on the abolition of Board of Revenue.[20A] The district level officers of these Departments are responsible to the District Collector.

Revenue Department and General Administration

The District Administration of India was created by "Land Revenue". The division of the provinces of India into districts was on account of it.[21] The District Revenue Administration is responsible for discharging a multitude of functions, mostly regulatory in nature. The Revenue authorities in the district have been nominated as statutory authorities in the implementation of a large number of enactments. They fully administer the provisions contained in several Codes, Manuals, Standing Orders, etc. After independence, with the enactment of several progressive laws and also the introduction of a number of welfare and developmental programmes, the responsibilities of Revenue authorities have increased manifold. There is also increasing competition for the grant of permits and licences under various enactments and concessions under several welfare schemes. In view of the nature and content of work being discharged by the Revenue Officials, a very large percentage of the population in the district has to approach the District Revenue Administration at various levels.

The wide range of functions mainly covers land, water management, levy and collection of Government dues, land reforms, tenancy reforms, survey and tenance of land records, control and distribution of essential commodities, welfare of economically and socially weaker sections, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Tribes, rebel relief, emergency relief, grant of varied licences, permits, conduct of elections, census and maintenance of law and order. Any residual work, which cannot be brought within the purview of any other department is generally made the responsibility of the Revenue Department.

In view of these factors, a suggestion was made to Government to designate the Revenue Department as "Revenue and General Administration Department". The Government thought that the new nomenclature would neither increase the status and the importance of the Revenue Department, nor would it inform the public about a new fact, since it has been recognised and accepted that the Revenue Department is responsible for general administration for over two Centuries. It was also considered that there is no practical advantage in changing the nomenclature of the Revenue Department as Revenue and General Administration Department.[22]

THE COLLECTOR

District Administration

The system of district administration by means of district Officers throughout the provinces, may be said to have been derived from Bengal.[23] As early as 1769, 'Supervisors' were appointed, with a view to collecting information of all kinds, and keeping a check on the work of the Muhammadan District Officers. They did not continue long; in May 1772,

they were styled Collectors and in 1773, after the Regulating Act of 1773, a new experiment was made, the Collectors were withdrawn from districts and aggregated into six "Provincial Councils". In 1781, it was found, as might be expected, that district control was indispensable, so the six Councils were dissolved and the districts left to native Officers "Diwan" and "Amil". After the various attempts at revenue and general administration by means of Local and Central Committees, District Collectors were again appointed in 1786. The main changes in the office since that time have been with reference to the Union of Magisterial and Civil Court powers with Revenue duties. At first (in 1787) it was considered desirable that the "people accustomed to despotic authority should look after one master"[24] But in the course of time and after several changes enacted by law, the Civil Court powers were withdrawn and criminal powers alone remained in union with the Revenue powers. It was in 1831 that the Regulations gave rise to the modern office of "Magistrate and Collector".But in 1837, the double function was for a time divided, owing to the pressure of Revenue work. The separation was gradually carried out and upto 1845, Collector after Collector was relieved of Magisterial duty. It was only in 1859, that the Magisterial and Revenue functions were again finally, united.[25]

The District Collector has been regarded as the representative of the Government in the district. The Office has always commanded great respect within the district. The Collector of land revenue and the preservation of law and order were his major responsibilities during the British period.[26] The administration of the district, including the collection of revenue, was in the hands of revenue officials. For long, the revenue administration was the only centre of Government in the district and absorbed all Governmental authority that operated in the district. In Madras Presidency, the Collector was not only Collector and Magistrate, but also Judge in revenue matters. The Collector in Madras Presidency in 1852, found to have higher responsibilities and more substantial powers than in the Bombay Presidency. In 1888, the Collectors in Madras Presidency were relieved the work of the headquarters division, which was given to a Deputy Collector.[27]

After Independence, the role of the Collector as that of his style of functioning has undergone several changes. The nature, content and priorities of work have also been changing from time to time. Authoritarian postures are resented. Apart from his ability to coordinate all developmental activities in the district and to control and direct revenue officials towards efficient performance, the Collector should be able to get the co-operation of the people and their leaders in all spheres of activity. The increase in population and urgency to provide minimum needs to the people, the pressure on land and water, demand for goods and services out-stripping the availability, growing unemployment, increase in law and order problems,

increased responsibility to protect and uplift the weaker sections of the people, co-ordination and management of all welfare, developmental and regulatory functions, have all made the work of the Collector difficult and complex. The Collector is constantly under pressure. He is obliged to intervene and use his position and influence in all matters which are not his direct responsibility. The Collector's priorities of various items of revenue work have changed. Important items of revenue work do not figure in his priority list. These are largely, the direct responsibility of the District Revenue Officer.[28] The District Collector has to concentrate on developmental activities in respect of panchayat administration. The Tirunelveli District is comprised of 19 panchayat unions under the charge of panchayat union commissioners in the grade of Tahsildar. There are nine Municipal Townships which are incharge of a Commissioner for each and there are 36 town panchayats which are looked after by an Executive Officer each.The Panchayat Townships are at Manimuthar and Sankar Nagar.[29] He reviews the working of the municipalities in the district. The District Collector, no doubt, has overall responsibilities in the administration of the district.

The names of Collectors of the Tirunelveli District and the list of district level officers of Revenue Department and other various departments, who are responsible for the General Administration of the district are given in *Appendix 1* and *2* respectively.

The District Collector, who is responsible for co-ordinating all the development and welfare activities in the district is obliged to be the Chairman or the President of a large number of official and non-official committees. The Collector of Tirunelveli holds the ex-officio Chairman/ President of many organisations, District Development Council, District Welfare Committee, etc., as listed in *Appendix-3*.

Committee Meetings and Review Meetings

The number of committees no doubt varies from district to district depending upon the special needs or programmes in each district. Some of the committees are bound to meet as frequently as once in a week.[30] In addition to the Committee meetings, the Collectors and other Revenue Divisional Officials also convene a number of staff meetings to review the progress of various items of revenue work. Most of these meetings are held once a month.[31]

Revenue Divisional Officers also conduct review meetings every month. Revenue Divisional Officers and Tahsildars in many districts are to attend review meetings on different subjects, convened by the Collectors.

Grievance Day and Mass Contact Programme

Grievance Day and Mass contact programme are instituted by the Government in order to expedite the disposal of representations and grievances of the rural public and also give them an opportunity to meet the Revenue Officials at different levels on prescribed dates and represent their grievances in person. In the district, every Monday is observed as "Grievance Day". The Collector, the Revenue Divisional Officers and the Tahsildars are to remain at their respective head quarters on this day to receive representations and petitions from the public and to take prompt action to redress their grievances.

Under the Mass Contact Programme, the Collector and the District Revenue Officers along with the officials of various Government departments visit each division under their jurisdiction by rotation on the 5th of every month for disposal of grievances of the people in the villages on the spot, while Revenue Divisional Officers visit a village in each taluk under their jurisdiction for a similar purpose. An Officer, not below the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar goes six weeks in advance to a village of the proposed date of visit, collect petitions from the public and send them to the concerned departmental officials for redressal. On the Day of Mass Contact Programme, the Officer concerned visits the village along with all the concerned district officials and final replies are given to the concerned petitioners. The petitions received on that day are also processed and replies given to the petitioners.[32] This scheme is in vogue from the year 1969 onwards.

The Collectorate

In the Collectorate, the Collector is assisted by the District Revenue Officer and Personal Assistants in his multifarious duties. In order to relieve his heavy and arduous responsibilities, Government have created, from the year 1960, the post of District Revenue Officers to look after a great deal of revenue and routine works on general administration.[33]

The Collector and the District Revenue Officer are assisted by Personal Assistants, District Town Panchayat Officers, District Welfare Officer, Public Relation Officer, District Supply Officer, District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officer, Assistant Director of Survey and other district level officers, who exercise authorities under the powers delegated to them by general or special orders. The ministerial staff of the collectorate include the Huzur Sarishtadar, Head Assistants and Assistants, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, Junior Assistants, Typists and other supporting staff.

At the divisional level, the District Development side, assists the Collector in running the administration. Similarly, the Tahsildars at taluk level and the Panchayat Union Commissioners at block level are the Officers

Front view of Collector's Office, Tirunelveli

incharge of implementing the instructions of the Collector on behalf of the Collector.

Divisional Administration

The history of creation of Revenue divisions of the district has been dealt with in the appropriate place in this chapter. The Revenue divisions of the district are headed by the Revenue Divisional Officers' who discharge many substantial original work, under the various Acts, Regulations, Rules and Standing Orders and a lot of supervising work. In the executive hierarchy, he assists the District Collector in the proper implementation of policies and programmes in so far as they relate to the District Revenue Administration. He scrutinises the reports of the Subordinate Officers on all important subjects, on which, the Collector / District Revenue Officer has to take decisions. He is an Executive Magistrate responsible for law and order in the Revenue Division. Since Independence, the duties of the Revenue Divisional Officer have undergone several changes. With the separation of the executive from the judiciary, the Revenue Divisional Officer shed his judicial functions. With the constitution of the Panchayat Development Units, the Revenue Divisional Officers were made responsible for Panchayat Development functions. In 1974 these functions were taken away from them and entrusted to Divisional Development Officer. Earlier in 1962, the responsibility of the Revenue Divisional Officer to supervise the working of the Sub-Treasury was also taken away, when a separate Directorate of Treasuries and Accounts was created. The Revenue Divisional Officer is primarily an inspecting and supervisory officer who is normally expected to spend more time on field executive work.[34]

The implementation of the several schemes and projects for which the Revenue Divisional Officers have been made responsible, involves cooperation of the local people and also collection of contributions from them and these can be effected, only by personal contacts, after intensive and extensive touring by the Revenue Divisional Officers, which cannot be done, if their jurisdictions are unwieldy,[35]

The Tirunelveli district was formed with three Revenue divisions viz., Tirunelveli, Cheranmahadevi and Tenkasi with their headquarters at Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi respectively which continue to exist since September 1986, on bifurcation of composite Tirunelveli District.[36]

Taluk Administration

The Taluk Office occupies a very important position in the general administration of the taluk. Tahsildars are incharge of revenue and general administration at taluk level, who is assisted by the Head Quarters Deputy Tahsildar, Taluk Supply Officer, Taluk Surveyor, other Deputy Tahsildars,

Assistants, Junior Assistants and other supporting staff. The efficiency of the general administration depends very much on the speed with which work in the taluk office is completed. The Deputy Tahsildars are also responsible in their respective areas for other items of work on general administration such as law and order, election, civil supplies, procurement etc. The Headquarter's Tahsildar supervises the work of the Deputy Tahsildars and also assist Deputy Collectors on general administration. He will also help the Deputy Collector in hearing and disposing of appeals against his orders. He will incorporate the results of the orders passed by the Head Quarters Tahsildar and Deputy Collector in the relevant *Adangal* sheets. He will be present during Zamabandhi and closely supervise the processing and printing of the Adangal and demand sheets, which is perhaps one of his important duties. The Tahsildar has a wide range of statutory and non statutory responsibilities and constitutes the first level in decision making in respect of a number of matters.

The Zonal Deputy Tahsildars attend to over azmoish and pass orders on the relevant village accounts, review collection work and check collection accounts, enquire and decide all matters which are delegated to him and make necessary field enquiries in respect of all matters on which decisions are to be taken by the superior officers. In all cases, on which the Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars pass orders, the Revenue Inspectors should prepare field enquiry reports and submit them to the taluk office. In cases which do not present any complications, Deputy Tehsildars and Tahsildars could pass orders on the reports in the office itself without further field verification. In other cases, the Zonal Deputy Tahsildars should conduct field verification and enquiry and then pass orders. Similarly, all reports which are referred to them by the Tahsildars for further verification and report and all cases, on which the Revenue Divisional Officer/District Revenue Officer/Collector have to pass orders should be enquired into by the Zonal Deputy Tahsildars and reports submitted to the Tahsildars in the prescribed form. The Tahsildar will pass orders in all such cases where he has the powers.

The Zonal Deputy Tahsildar who is incharge of two or more firkas is the primary field reporting officer in all matters where the Revenue Divisional Officer/District Revenue Officer/Collector is the decision making authority. All these field reports should be scrutinised by the Tahsildars and sent to the decision making authorities, viz., Revenue Divisional Officer/District Revenue Officer/Collector, as the case may be. He in the course of his visits to the villages, should pass orders in all such cases, which would require field verification and also carry out necessary changes in the relevant village and taluk records.[37]

Firka Administration

After the village, the firka is the next administrative unit incharge of a Revenue Inspector, who is the first level regular full time Government

functionary in the Revenue Department. His principle functions are to supervise the work of the Village officers, azmoish, cultivation, attend to collection of revenues ensure that village accounts are maintained properly and in all matters referred to him, inspect, enquire and send reports to the Tahsildars. Tirunelveli district comprised of 55 firkas. The Revenue Inspectors are to reside in their firka headquarters and those who do not reside in their firka headquarters, prefer to make frequent visits to the taluk office.

There is a wide variation in the size of firkas with reference to the area, population, *beriz* and number of pattadars. Though mere numbers may not give an idea about work load, there is no doubt that the span of administrative control varies widely. The area of the smallest firka is about 2529.34 hectares, while the biggest one is 27235.94 hectares.[38]

Village Administration

In the administrative history of this country right from the beginning, the villages have been the basic units of administration. Survey villages are generally formed on consideration of compactness, shape and geographical features and are serially numbered. Groups of such survey villages are constituted as revenue groups under the charge of a set of village officers. Each revenue group usually has one village headman, one Karnam and two or three village servants known as Vetti, Thalayari, *Nirgantic* etc.[39] Karnams were provided as early as 1802, for villages of permanently assessed estates in Madras. In 1816, heads of villages were declared to be *Munsifs* (village headman) in their villages.[40] Most headmen had held their appointments on heriditary privilege by virtue of Act - III of 1895 upto 1980 as part time village officers. The Government merged both the duties of village headman and Karnam and made it a full-time office designated the Officer as *Village Administrative Officer* with effect from 1st December 1980.[41]

The former village officers known as Village Headman and Karnam, who do not possess the required qualification for the Village Administrative Officer have been accommodated as Bill clerks in panchayats.

In Tirunelveli District each revenue village is having a Village Administrative Officer. These officers are responsible for collection of Revenue, maintenance of village accounts, recommending issue of various certificates, attending the maintenance of law and order, prevention of crimes, transmission of information on crimes to the police and the magistracy, registration of births and deaths, protecting railway lines maintaining survey marks, looking after government buildings and irrigation works, handling emergencies like floods, epidemics, civil commotion etc.[42]

APPENDIX-1

List of Collectors

Sl.no	*Name of the Collector*		*Period*
1	*2*		*3*
1.	Benjamin Torin	Collector of Poligar Peshkash	1790-1792
2.	J.London	-do-	1792-1794
3.	J.Powjey	-do-	1794-1797
4.	W.C.Jackson	-do-	1797-1799
5.	S.R.Lushington	-do-	1799-1801
6.	S.R.Lushington	Collector	1801-1803
7.	George Tarish	Acting Collector	1803
8.	J.Cochrane	Collector	1803-1806
9.	J.Hepburn	Collector	1806-1807
10.	J.Hanbury	Acting Collector	1807
11.	J.Hepburn	Collector	1807-1810
12.	J.Hanbury	Acting Collector	1810
13.	J.Hepburn	Collector	1810-1812
14.	J.G.Turnbull	incharge	1812
15.	J.Hanbury	Acting Collector	1812
16.	Record not available	1812-1813	
17.	J.Cotton	Collector	1814-1816
18.	E.H.Woodcock	Acting Collector	1816
19.	J.Cotton	Collector	1816-1819
20.	R.H.Young	Acting Collector	1819-1820
21.	R.H.Young	Collector	1820
22.	J.Thomas	in charge	1820
23.	J.B.Hudleston	Collector	1820-1823
24.	E.Bannerman	incharge	1823
25.	J.A.Munro	Collector	1823-1827
26.	H.W.Kindersley	Collector	1827
27.	G.D.Drury	Collector	1828-1932
28.	A.Mellor	incharge	1832
29.	R.Eden	Collector	1832
30.	T.V.Stonehouse	Acting Collector	1832

31.	J.Blackburn	Acting Collector & Collector	1832-
32.	R.Eden	Collector	1833
33.	J.Bishop	incharge	1834
34.	J.C.Wronghton	Acting Collector	1834
35.	Records not available	1835	
36.	J.Bishop	incharge	1837
37.	R.Eden	Collector	1837
38.	J.Bishop	incharge	1837
39.	E.P.Thompson	Acting Collector	1837-1839
40.	R.Eden	Collector	1839-1840
41.	C.J.Bird	incharge	1840
42.	E.P.Thompson	Collector	1840
43.	W.C.Ogilvie	Acting Collector	1840-1841
44.	Sir H.C.Montgonery	Collector	1841-1842
45.	E.B.Thomas	Acting Collector	1842
46.	E.B.Thomas	Collector	1843
47.	C.Whittingham	Acting Collector	1843
48.	E.B.Thomas	Collector	1843-1846
49.	F.B.Elton	Acting Collector-incharge	1846
50.	R.D.Parker	Acting Collector	1846-1847
51.	F.B.Elton	Acting Collector	1847-1848
52.	E.B.Thomas	Collector	1848
53.	C.Wittingham	incharge	1848
54.	F.B.Elton	Acting Collector	1848-1849
55.	C.Wittingham	incharge	1849
56.	C.J.Bird	Acting Collector	1849-1951
57.	C.J.Bird	Collector	1851-1853
58.		No records	1854
59.	J.Silver	Acting Collector	1855-1856
60.	J.Silver	Collector	1856-1858

61.	D.Mayne	Acting Collector	1858
62.	V.H.leving	Acting Collector	1858-1859
63.	J.Silver	Collector	1859-1865
64.	G.Banbury	Acting Collector	1865
65.	A.Wedderburn	Collector	1865-1866
66.	A.Macgregor	Incharge	1866
67.	R.K.Puckle	Collector	1866-1868
68.	J.B.Pennington	Acting Collector	1868
69.	C.T.Longley	Acting Collector	1868-1870
70.	A.J.Stuart	Acting Collector	1870,
71.	J.R.Arbuthnot	Acting Collector	1870
72.	R.K.Puckle	Collector	1870-1874
73.	W.A.Happell	Acting Collector	1874
74.	W.H.Comyn	Acting Collector	1874
75.	R.K.Puckle	Collector	1874
76.	W.H.Comyn	Acting Collector	1874-1875
77.	W.A.Happell	Acting Collector	1875
78.	J.B.Pennington	Collector	1875
79.	A.J.Stuart	Acting Collector	1875-1876
80.	W.H.Glenny	Acting Collector	1876
81.	A.J.Stuart	Acting Collector	1876-1877
82.	J.B.Pennington	Collector	1877-1880
83.	A.L.Lister	Acting Collector	1880
84.	J.B.Pennington	Collector	1880-1883
85.	A.J.B.Atkinson	Acting Collector	1883-1884
86.	J.Lee.Warner	Collector	1884-1885
87.	H.M.Winterbotham	Collector	1885-1886
88.	S.H.Wynne	Acting Collector	1886 -
89.	J.Lee Warner	Collector	1886 - 1887
90.	C.F.Maccartie	Acting Collector	1887 - 1888

91.	F.A.Nicholson	Acting Collector	1888
92.	J.Thompson	Acting Collector	1888 - 1889
93.	F.A.Nicholson	Acting Collector	1889
94.	J.H.A.Tremenhere	Acting Collector	1889 - 1890
95.	F.A.Nicholson	Collector	1890 - 1891
96.	G.S.Forbes	Collector	1891 - 1894
97.	Bannatyne Macleod	Acting Collector	1894
98.	A.W.B.Higgens	Collector	1894 - 1897
99.	R.B.Clegg	Acting Collector	1897 - 1898
100.	A.W.B.Higgens	Collector	1898 -
101.	E.Scott	Acting Collector	1898 - 1899
102.	J.P.Bedford	Acting Collector	1899 - 1900
103.	L.E.Buckley	Acting Collector	1900- 1904
104.	R.F.Austin	Acting Collector	1904
105.	L.E.Buckley	Collector	1904 - 1905
106.	D.D.Murdoch	Collector	1905 - 1907
107.	F.A.Coleridge	Acting Collector	1907
108.	L.M.Wynch	Collector	1907 - 1908
109.	S.W.G.I.Maciver	Acting Collector	1908 - 1909
110.	L.Davidson	Collector	1909-1910
111.	R.W.DE.Ashe	Acting Collector	1910
112.	L.Davidson	Collector	1910
113.	R.W.DE.Ashe	Acting Collector	1910-1911
114.	H.F.W.Gillman	Collector	1911
115.	W.Francis	Collector	1911-1912
116.	J.C.Molony	Acting Collector	1912-1913
117.	JH.B.Jackson	Acting Collector	1913-1914
118.	C.G.Todhunter	Collector	1914-1915
119.	F.R.Hemingway	Acting Collector	1915-1916
120.	H.T.Reilly	Collector	1916

121.	Amac Galletti	Collector	1916-1917
122.	S.W.G.T.Maciver	Collector	1917-1918
123.	A.R.Cox	Collector	1918-1920
124.	E.A.Davis	Collector	1920-1923
125.	E.M.Gawne	Collector	1923
126.	R.R.Burkitt	Collector	1923-1925
127.	E.A.Gawne	Collector	1925
128.	A.M.G.C.Tampoe	Collector	1925-1927
129.	K.E.Chidambara Iyer	Collector	1927-
130.	Amac Galett	Collector	1929
131.	T.B.Gupta	Collector	1929
132.	Amac Galetti	Collector	1929-1930
133.	V.N.Viswanatha Rao	Collector	1930-1931
134.	A.C.Woodhouse	Collector	1931-1933
135.	M.N.Banthulu	Collector	1933-1934
136.	B.Rama Rao	Collector	1934
137.	D.D.Warren	Collector	1934-1936
138.	U.Ramakrishna	Collector	1936-1938
139.	E.Bennett	Collector	1938-1939
140.	E.C.Wood	Collector	1939
141.	T.Baskar Rao	NayuduCollector	1939
142.	V.S.Hejmadi	Collector	1939-1940
143.	N.D.Krishna Rao	Collector	1940
144.	V.S.Hejmadi	Collector	1940-1942
145	V.N.Viswanatha Rao	Collector	1942-1944
146.	S.M.Nahuda Sahib	Collector	1944
147.	V.N.Viswanatha Rao	Collector	1944-1946
148.	R.M.Seshadri	Collector	1946-1947
149.	K.Ghulam Mahmood	Collector	1947-1949
150.	R.S.Subbiah Pillai	Collector	1919-1953

151.	M.Gopal Menon	Collector	1953-1954
152.	S.M.Balakrishna Pillai	Collector	1954
153.	Somasundaram. A	Collector	1954
154.	R.R.Viswasam	Collector	1954
155.	S.M.Balakrishna Pillai	Collector	1954-1955
156.	J.Subbusami	Collector	1955
157.	R.V.Raman	Collector	1957
158.	A.V.Loganathan	Collector	1957-1958
159.	M.Krishnaswamy	Collector	1958-1959
160.	R.Pasupathi	Collector	1959-1961
161.	M.A.Sheriff	Collector	1961-1962
162.	H.K.Gazi	Collector	1962-1963
163.	M.Chandrasekaran	Collector	1963-1965
164.	M.M.Rajendran	Collector	1965-1968
165.	T.V.Antony	Collector	1968-1969
166.	M.A.K.Thayab	Collector	1969-1970
167.	K.Venkatesan	Collector	1970-1971
168.	C.Ramachandran	Collector	1971-1973
169.	R.Shanmugasigamani	Collector	1973-1974
170.	V.D.Durairaj	Collector	1974-1975
171.	K.Madhava Sharma	Collector	1975-1976
172.	S.Narayan	Collector	1976
173.	Venkataraman Sundaram	Collector	1976-1978
174.	R.Shunmugam	Collector	1978-1979
175.	T.S.Selvaraj	Collector	1979-1980
176.	T.M.Arumugam	Collector	1980-1981
177.	N.S.Hira	Collector	1981-1984
178.	V.Rama Doss	Collector	1984-1986
179.	P.R.Bindhumadhavan	Collector	1986-1987
180.	K.Ponnusamy	Collector	1987-1988

181.	M.Raman	Collector	1988-1989
182.	S.Rajarethinam	Collector	1989-1991
183.	R.Velu	Collector	1991-1993
184.	R.Jeyaraman	Collector	1993-1995
185.	V.K.Jeyakodi	Collector	1995
186.	R.Velu	Collector	1995-1996
187.	Dr.Niranjan Mardi	Collector	1996-1998
188.	K.Dhanavel	Collector	1998

APPENDIX - 2

List of Central and State Government Offices functioning in the District

Station Director, All India Radio, Palayamkottai
Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise & Customs, Tirunelveli
Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax
Station Manager, Southern Railway, Tirunelveli
Executive Officer, INS Kattabomman Navy, South Vijayanarayanam
Superintending Engineer, National Highways
Assistant General Manager, Provident Fund, Tirunelveli
Telecom District Manager, Telecommunications, Tirunelveli
Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Palayamkottai
Station Engineer, Television Relay Centre, Tirunelveli
Divisional Engineer, Telegraph Traffic, Palayamkottai

The State Government official machinery which helps the Collector in the administration of district

Revenue Department / Collectorate

District Collector, Tirunelveli
District Revenue Officer
Additional Collector, District Rural Development Agency
Personal Assistant to the Collector (General)
Personal Assistant to the Collector (PD South)
Personal Assistant to the Collector (Noon Meals)
Revenue Divisional Officers at Tirunelveli, Cheranmadevi and Tenkasi
District Adidravidar Welfare Officer (Dept. of Adi Dravidar Welfare)
District Backward Classes Welfare Officer (Dept. of Backward classes and Most Backward classes welfare)
District Supply Officer (Dept. of Civil Supplies)
Special Deputy Collector, (Urban Land Ceiling)
Authorised Officer (Land Reforms)
Project Coordinator, Total Literacy Campaign (Arivoli Iyakkam)
Assistant Commissioner (Excise)
District Treasury Officer.
Information and Public Relations Officer
Regional Public Relation Officer
Department of Treasuries and Accounts,
Divisional Excise Officers, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and

Cheranmadevi at Nanguneri Divisions.

Special Deputy Collector, (Stamps)

District Small Savings Officer

Tahsildars, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Sankarankoil,

Ambasamudram, Nanguneri, Radhapuram, Tenkasi, Sengottai, Sivagiri, Veerakeralampudur (Additional Taluk)

Headquarters Deputy Tahsildar

Zonal Deputy Tahsildars

Firka Revenue Inspectors

Village Administrative Officers

Agriculture and Horticulture, Tirunelveli

Joint Director of Agriculture

Deputy Director of Agriculture

Deputy Director of Oil Seeds

Deputy Director of Horticulture

Assistant Director of Agriculture

Assistant Director of Seed Certification

Seed Testing Officer

Project Officer, Small Farmers Development Agency, Tirunelveli

Professor and Head, Paddy Experiment Research Station, Ambasamudram.

Agricultural Engineering

Executive Engineer, Tirunelveli

Assistant Executive Engineer

Agricultural Engineer (Inspection) Tirunelveli

Animal Husbandry

Regional

Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, Tirunelveli

Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Tirunelveli

Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry

Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi

Superintendent, District Livestock Farm, Abishekapatti

Archaeoilogy

Archaeological Officer, Palayamkottai

Commercial Taxes

Deputy Commissioner, Tirunelveli

Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli

Cooperation

Joint Registrar of Cooperative Societies

Assistant Director of Cooperative Audit, Tirunelveli

Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Tirunelveli

Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies

Tirunelveli Cooperative Wholesales Stores

Tirunelveli Consumers Cooperative Wholesales Stores

Tirunelveli Cooperative Milk Producers Society

Dairying

Deputy Registrar - Tirunelveli

Drug Control Department

Assistant Director, Palayamkottai

Economic and Statistics Department

Assistant Director of Economics and Statistics

Education

Department of Collegiate Education

Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Tirunelveli Region

Principal, Government Arts College for Women.

Department of Government Examinations

Regional Deputy Director of Government Examinations, Tirunelveli

Department of School Education

Chief Educational Officer, Tirunelveli

District Educational Officers, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Cheranmadevi

Regional Inspector of Physical Education

Legal Studies

Principal, Government Law College

Technical Education

Principal, Government Engineering College, Tirunelveli

Employment and Training

Regional Deputy Director of Training, Tirunelveli

District Employment Officers, Tirunelveli

Junior Employment Officers

Principal, Government I.T.I Pettai

Ex-servicemen's Welfare

Assistant Director

Superintendent

Factories

Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli

Inspector of Factories

Assistant Inspector of Factories

Family Welfare

Deputy Director of Family Welfare, Tirunelveli

Mass Education and Information Officer, Tirunelveli

Fire Service Department

Divisional Fire Officer, Tirunelveli

Assistant Divisional Fire Officer, Tirunelveli

Fisheries

Assistant Director, (Regional) Tirunelveli at Manimuthar

Inspector of Fisheries

Sub Inspector of Fisheries

Fisheries Overseer

Forensic Sciences Department

Assistant Director

Regional Forensic Science Lab, Tirunelveli

Forest

Conservator of Forests, Tirunelveli

Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Circle, Tirunelveli

Assistant Conservator of Forests, Forest Protection Squard, Tirunelveli

Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry Division)

District Forest Officer, Tirunelveli

Wildlife Warden, Kalakadu Sanctuary, Tirunelveli

Field Director and Conservator of Forests, Tirunelveli

Deputy Director, Mundanthurai Kalakadu Sanctuary

Ambasamudram

Highways

Superintending Engineer, Tirunelveli H & R.W Tirunelveli

Divisional Engineer, Highways, Tirunelveli

Assistant Divisional Engineers - 7

Palayamkottai, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Sengottai, Nanguneri Radhapuram and Sankarankoil

Superintending Engineer, Highways & Rural Roads,

Divisional Engineer (Investigation Division)

Geology and Mining

Assistant Director of Geology and Mining

Health Department

Joint Director of Health Service, Tenkasi

Deputy Director of Health Services, Sankarankoil

Deputy Director, Medical Services, Tirunelveli

District Siddha Medical Officer, Tenkasi

District Tuberculosis Officer, Tenkasi

District Malaria Officer, Tenkasi

District Leprosy Officer, Tenkasi

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Administration Department

Deputy Commissioner, (Regional) Tirunelveli

Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli

Verification Officer, Palayamkottai

Assistant Divisional Engineer, Palayamkottai

Housing Board

Executive Engineer & Administrative Officer, Tirunelveli

Executive Engineer, TAHDCO

Industries

General Manager, District Industries Centre, Tirunelveli

Assistant Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Tirunelveli

Assistant Director of Khadi and Village Industries

Judicial

Principal District Judge, Tirunelveli

Chief Judicial Magistrate, Tirunelveli

Additional District Judge, Tirunelveli

Additional Sub Judge, Tirunelveli

Labour

Deputy Commissioner of Labour

Assistant Commissioner of Labour

Labour Officers
Inspectors of Labour
Deputy Inspectors of Labour

Library

District Library Officer, Palayamkottai
Librarian, District Central Library, Palayamkottai

Museum

Curator, Tirunelveli

Municipalities

Commissioner, Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation
Commissioners, Tenkasi Sankarankoil, Puliangudi, Kadayanallur Municipalities
Executive Officers, Manimuthar Township Courtallam Township
Municipal Health Officers
Municipal Engineer
Town Planning Officers

Public Works Department

Superintending Engineer, Tirunelveli
Executive Engineer, Project Planning and Designs Division
Executive Engineer, Buildings Division, Tirunelveli
Executive Engineer, Tamiraparani Division,
Executive Engineer, Circuit House,
Hydrologist, Groundwater Division,
Executive Engineer, Project Preparation Cell Division

Police Department

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Tirunelveli Range, Tirunelveli
Superintendent of Police, Tirunelveli
Superintendent of Police (PEW)
Superintendent of Police (Special Branch)
Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tirunelveli
Deputy Superintendent of Police, Armed Reserve
Deputy Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, CID
Deputy Superintendent of Police, CI Wing, CID
Deputy Superintendent of Police, Special Branch CID
Detachment Deputy Superintendent of Police, Central Record Bureau

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Vigilance and Anti corruption

Additional Superintendent of Police

Prosecution

Public Prosecutor

Government Pleader

Assistant Public Prosecutors

Prison Department

Superintendent, Central Prison, Palayamkottai

Registration

Deputy Inspector of Registration, Tirunelveli

District Registrar

Deputy Registrars

Rural Development

Commissioner of Panchayat Unions,

Manur

Kuruvikulam

Cheranmadevi

Kadayam

Nanguneri

Valliyoor

Tenkasi

Palayamkottai

Sankarankoil

Melaneelithanallur

Ambasamudram

Pappakudi

Kalakad

Radhapuram

Alangulam

Sengottai

Keelapavoor

Vasudevanallur

Kadayanallur

Town Panchayats - 37

Assistant Director of Town Panchayats, Tirunelveli

Executive Officers, Town Panchayats

Sericulture

Assistant Director of Sericulture, Tenkasi

Inspectors of Sericulture

Social Welfare

District Social Welfare Officer, Tirunelveli

District Project Nutrition Officer, Tirunelveli

District Immunisation Officer, Tirunelveli

Project Officer, ICDS, Tirunelveli

Survey and Land Records

Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records, Tirunelveli

Tourism Officer, Tirunelveli

Town Planning

Deputy Director of Town Planning, Tirunelveli

Transport

Deputy Transport Commissioner, Tirunelveli

Regional Transport Officer, Tirunelveli

Special Officer, Institute of Road Transport Polytechnic

Treasuries and Accounts

Regional Deputy Director of Treasuries and Accounts, Tirunelveli

Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board

Superintending Engineer, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Circle

Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply Division, Tirunelveli

Executive Engineer, Urban Division,

Executive Engineer, Special Division

Other Offices

Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation, Tirunelveli

Superintendent, Wakf Board, Tirunelveli

Secretary, Tirunelveli Marketing Committee, Tirunelveli

Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Corporation, Tirunelveli

Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation

Tamil Nadu Medicinal Plant Farm and Herbal Medicine Corporation

District Environment Engineer, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board
Site Engineer, Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation
Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation
Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu Text Book Society, Tirunelveli
Chief Engineer (Distribution), Tamil Nadu Electricity Board
Senior Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.
Divisional Engineer, Power House, Lower Dam, Vickramasingapuram
Executive Engineer, Karuppanadi Dam Site, Kadayanallur
Manager, Poompuhar Handicrafts Development Corporation

APPENDIX - 3

Names of District Level Committee to which the Collector is the Chairman / Resident

1. The District Advisory Committee (Industries)
2. District level Single Window Industrial Clearance Committee
3. Primary Monitory Committee
4. District Transport Advisory Committee
5. Traffic Development Committee
6. District Traffic Committee
7. District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airman's Board
8. Jawan's Bhavan Administrative Committee
9. District Flag Day Organisation Committee
10. District Consumer Protection Council
11. City Level Coordination Committee
12. Site and Service Committee
13. Local Monitoring Committee (L.M.C)
14. Local Planning Authority (LPA)
15. Fishing Development Agency Committee
16. Managing Committee Meeting
17. District Level Ex-gratia Financial Assistance Committee in the case of post operative fatality complication

18. Committee empowered to approve voluntary and Private Institution for doing vasectomy / tubectomy / Iud insertion.
19. Committee for selection or candidates for appointment to the posts of teacher in the schools under the control of A.D.W. Department.
20. District Adi-Dravidar Welfare Committee, Tirunelveli Kattabomman District.
21. District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, Tirunelveli Kattabomman District.
22. District Level Negotiation Committee, Tirunelveli Kattabomman District.
23. Prohibition Propaganda Committee
24. Compulsory Retirement Review Committee
25. District Rural Development Agency
26. District Level Review Committee (Lead Bank)
27. Drought Prone Area Programme
28. District Constructive Committee
29. Starting Committee
30. Committee in District to examine fairness of submissions made by Employment Exchanges
31. Man power planning
32. District Coordination Committee
33. Examination Vigilance Committee
34. Elimination of Child Labour Project Society
35. Discharged Prisoners Aid Society
36. District Level Monitoring Committee for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavangers
37. District Project Committee for individual Entrepreneurship Scheme
38. District Level Screening of Committee Project cost above 1,00,000
39. Hospital Advisory Committee
40. Water Supply Coordination Committee
41. District Development Council
42. P.M.'s 15 Points Committee
43. Nehru Yuvakendra Committee
44. Children Welfare Fund Committee
45. District Level Aids Advisory Committee

46. Family Welfare Committee
47. TINP Monitary Committee
48. Agricultural Production Committee
49. Broad Based Extension Committee
50. Family Welfare Review Committee
51. District Polio Rehabilitation Committee
52. National Blindmen Control Committee
53. T.B.Association Committee
54. Blood Bank Committee
55. Social Forestry Committee
56. Sales Tax Advisory Committee
57. Uniform Stitching Committee
58. District Sports Council

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33. G.O.Ms.No.3090, Public Special Department dated 19 December 1959 G.O.No.1434; Public Special Department dated 25 June 1962 and G.O.No.2751, Revenue, dt. 28.June.1960.
34. S.P.Ambrose, *op.cit.*, pages 27 and 28 and G.O.No.1434, Public (Spl.) dt.25.June.1962.
35. G.O.Ms.No.2466, Revenue dated.31.August.1955.
36. G.O.Ms.No.535, Revenue Dept.dated.24.March.1986.
37. G.O.Ms.No.2787, Public, dated.26.8.74 and S.P.Ambrose, Op.cit.pages 22-26.
38. S.P.Ambrose, *op.cit.*, page-10
39. Report on District Revenue and General Administration, Government. of Madras, September 1973, p.4.
40. M.Ruthnaswamy, *op.cit.*, pages 350-357 and G.O.Ms.No.2787, Public, dated.26.8.1974
41. Tamil Nadu Board of Revenue abolition Act, 1980 (Tamil Nadu Act 36 of 1980) and G.O.Ms.No.2615, Revenue, dated. 24 November, 1980
42. G.O.Ms.No.2787, Public, dated. 26 August 1974

CHAPTER-10

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

It is not possible for a government to thrive without collecting taxes from the people. The Dharma Sastras which were the guiding texts of the Indian polity from time immemorial specify the levy of taxes as one of the important functions of the State. At the same time, they categorically state that the collection of taxes is solely intended for affording protection to the people and for increasing the prosperity of the land. The Kosa, that is the treasury, was one of the main limbs of the State.

Taxes, called *Vari, Irai* or *Ayam* were paid in kind, labour or cash. The taxes were also divided into royal taxes (*puravu vari*) and local taxes (*antarayam*) corresponding to modern municipal taxes.

Revenue from land formed the sizeable part of the governmental income. There were separate departments under the king called *puravuvari tinarkkalam* in inscriptions to look after this aspect. The collection of land taxes was left in the hands of the local village assemblies, and collected from them by the officers of the king called *puravuvarinayakas*. The land revenue was collected mainly in kind, which enabled the agriculturist to pay at the time of harvest. Payment by cash and also partly in kind and partly in cash were known.

Though there were other taxes, land revenue was the main stay of the royal income. The sovereigns of ancient India, administered the country on the basis that all lands belonged to the State and that the citizens acquired a negotiable right on land by sharing the produce with the State. Arthasastra of Kautilya speaks of one sixth share of the grass produce as the legitimate shares of the State. In the days of the Cholas and the Pallavas, the system of measuring and classifying cultivable lands, keeping records of ownership and assisting land revenue based on the actual production were prevalent.

Tirunelveli District formed a part of the ancient Pandya kingdom which included the districts of Ramanathapuram and Madurai. The river Vellar was its northern boundary. The inscriptions, museum plates, and other evidences available, though help us constructing the general history of the Pandyas, do not throw much light in their revenue administration.

The Madras Museum Plates refer to the administrative sub divisions of *Nadu*(நாடு) and *Kurram*(குறம்). The *gramam* (கிராமம்) was the smallest unit of the administration. Mangalam, Kudi, Ur and vayal were

the common suffixus for the names of the villages. It is seen that the boundaries of villages proposed to be given as gift were usually fixed by letting a female elephant loose and following its course and the boundaries were marked on ground by stones and kalli. We find several inscriptions of this period relating to grants of land to various temples and creation of endowments for the management of temples. There were also cash endowments like the grant by the King Varaguna Maharaja of 290 gold Kasus to the assembly of Ambasamudram to meet the cost of offerings to be made four times a day in the temple of Tiruppottudaya Bhatarar at Illangokkudi.[1]

The indigenous revenue system reached a high level of accuracy and perfection under the Cholas. A regular survey of land was 'an important feature of the Cholas' revenue administration. The greatest land survey ever conducted in the history of India was made under the orders of Rajaraja -I in about 1000 A.D. The survey was minute and thorough. The total land in every village, the area such as temples, residential area, cremation grounds, canals passing through the village etc., were exempted from paying taxes, and the net taxable area and the total tax to be paid were recorded in every village. Even 1/1000 square metre of land did not go unrecorded. A study of epigraphical documents reveals the incredible accuracy of survey.[2] This shows a regular survey of land was an important feature of the Chola revenue administration. Various units of measurements of exent of land like *Veli, Ma, Kuli, Mukkani, Araikkani, Muntriga* etc., are mentioned in the Chola inscriptions, which indicate the importance attached to indentification and standardization of landed properties held by the people. We also find records of the Cholas referring to permanent settlements of tax as *nilai irai* expecting the agriculturists to pay a fixed amount without the fear of increase during later times. Many instances are recorded of taxes being waived in condition of drought, floods and on other such natural calamities. The survey work took place under the supervision of 'Senapati' known as *Ulagalandan* because of his supervision over the survey work. *Ulagalanda kol, Sirrambalakkol* and *Pangitta kol* etc., are referred to measuring rods used for the purposes of survey. Resurveys were also conducted during the reign of Kulottunga-I.

Administrative units were well defined. Divisions and sub-divisions were clearly noted. An inscription at Ambasamudram in the Tirumalanathaswamy temple relates to the period of the Chola and Pandya king Jatawarma alias Sri Sundara Chola Pandyadeva (feudatory of Rajendra Chola-I). It gives specific locational details like Rajaraja Chaturvedimangalam in Mullinadu, a district in Mudigonda Chola-Valanadu in Rajaraja Pandinadu.

The lands gifted to temples were known as devadana the gifts to brahmins were known as *brahmadaya; Virabhoga* and *Padaiparru* were the lands gifted to great soldiers and heros of war. Based on the relationship among tenants, landownership existed. The following three may be noted as important ones.

Iraikudigal referred to the individual ownership of land involving direct payment of tax by the owner of the land to Government. *Melvaram* was a tenancy arrangement, requiring payment of melvarams by tenants to the landowner. *Vellanvagai* related to peasants-proprietorship. It is noteworthy here that there were provisions for the transfer of lands from one tenure to another. The common practice was collection of taxes through the village assemblies, while in some cases direct payments were also accepted. The payment of revenue either in cash or in kind was permissible.

After the recovery of the Pandya kingdom from the Cholas, till the disappearance of the 'Second Pandya's empire, roughly for about 130 years contemporary inscriptions show a well ordered revenue administration. In the context of the political turmoils and wars of the period, this relative orderliness in land administrations are interesting. There were registers in the country's capital furnishing information on the land-holdings of individuals, corporations and government. The details of rights possessed and transferred among the parties were all registered. The originals of the documents were in palm leaves. The stone inscriptions and copper plates were there, to create a permanent evidence of the transactions. The word Tulyam meaning *equal* which occurs in the beginning or the end of the epigraphs show that they were copies of documents, which were probably in palmleaves. Grants of land in favour of temples, brahmins and so on were usually created only by royal sanction and there was a regular and prescribed procedure for obtaining such sanctions. Apart from paddy, taxes were levied on every type of land produce. Taxes for planting coconuts, arecanuts, betel leaves, lilies and so on are recorded. A water cess was levied on river, lake or well irrigation. One of the taxes, repugnant to modern taste, but accepted as a norm in ancient time was the tax on each community (Ena vari).

An inscription in the Bakthavatchala temple at Cheramahadevi refers to a gift of land stated to have been deducted in the account (puravu vari) registers. Various taxes are mentioned in this inscription such as kadamai Antarayam Viniyogam Achuvari Kariavarachi, Vetipattam, Panjupuli, Sandiviggira, Kapperu, Vasalperu, Illanchinaipperu Uzhudankudi, Padikkaval, Ponvari and so on.[3]

Tax on profession was an important source of income. Professional taxes like the potter tax (Kusakkaram) the barber's tax (Navitakkaram)

the tax on toddy tappers' (Ilappuchi) the washerman's tax (paaraikkaaram) the tax on the Brahmin chief (Brahmana Raajaakkaaram) and the carpenter's tax (Taccukkaram) recorded in detail, show that not a single profession was left untouched.[4]

The Nayak rule, has made certain changes in revenue administration. The system became little rigid ensuring prompt and systematic collection of revenue. The latitude enjoyed by the village assemblies or committees is gradually reduced and the official hold of a central government became more effective. The village revenue officers (Maniakkaran or Ambalakkaran) were appointed and they worked under the immediate supervision of Makkanam. The collections were remitted into the royal treasury through Makkanam. The Kings treasury functioneJ under charge of Pradani. The payment of revenue was mostly in cash. Half of the produce was the rate of land tax which was the mainstay of government. The pearl and chank fisheries and tributes from the Poligars were other important sources of revenue. From the inscriptions of this period several, miscellaneous items of revenue (Ulayu, and Pandara vadai) Jodi and Virada taxes on looms and weavers, taxes on imports and exports etc. are known to have been prevalent, though their exact rates and importance are not clear.[5]

Land Revenue Administration under the Polygars

The Poligars handled not only revenue matters but claimed and exercised wherever possible all the powers of sovereign within their area. The emergence of the Poligars should have been a natural outcome of the gradual weakening of the joint village committee and Village assemblies due to the appearance of foreigners managing the central government. Since the foreign Viceroys were not in a position to maintain a good relation with the people, they appointed intermediaries assigned with the power of collection of tax - dues for the government and remit it after retaining a certain portion of collections. To some extent these intermediaries were made responsible for maintaining law and order in the country and in times of necessity they must be in a position to supply men and materials, when the central government was engaged in war with other powers. In order to eusure all these the central Government run by despots or their agents were ready to vest in poligars not only the powers of revenue collection but also considerable magisterial and police powers.

The origin of the Poligars is generally traced to the period of the Vijayanagar Kingdom in the South, though some of them claim their ancestry to the days of Pandyas. Originally they were known as Poligars. The tittle of poligars is said to have been given by the Vijayanagar kings to the chieftains of the Telugu colonies planted in the neighbouring

provinces for the purposes of overlying the original inhabitants. The chieftains in the Tamil country were known as the Palayakarans. Their history is normally traced fom the beginning of Nayak rule at Madurai. The founder of the Nayaka Dynasty, Viswanatha Nayak had to reckon with various conflicting forces before he could establish his regime. One of the forces he had to reconcile with was the large number of hereditary chieftains in the Tamil country whom he found in possession of considerable territories and power. Their goodwill and co-operation was quite necessary for him. In addition, he had to appease a large body of his own followers who had come from the north. In his effort to concilate these various forces before establishing his kingdom firmly, he contrived a scheme of enriching and ennobling the most powerful of each class and thereby securing their allegiance to himself and his successors. Each of these chieftains was formally placed in charge of a country consisting of a certain number of villages. He was bound to keep it peaceful at all time and to pay fixed annual tribute besides supplying a quota of troops for the government's army. This arrangement was to be hereditary. Such was the origin of most of the Palayakaras of the Tamil country, who subsequently became Zamindars. A few like the Zamindar of Ramanthapuram (Sethupathis of Ramnad) claim conferment of estates upon them prior to Nayaks period by the old Pandya kings.

Land Revenue Administration under British

In the later half of the 18th century when this part of the country came under the management of the East India Company under an arrangement with the Nawab of Arcot, the British came into clash with the Palayakar of this district before establishing their supremacy over the country. Many of these chieftains rebelled against their suzerainty and refused to pay tribute to them. The chief among these revolutionary chieftains was Katta Bomma Naick of Panchalankurichi. He was supported by the Poligars of Kadalgudi, Kulathur, Avudayapuram, Elayirampanni, Nagalapuram, Sivagiri and other Tirunelveli district and Marudhu Pandiyas of Sivaganga.

At the headquarters of the district a *renter* appointed by the East India Company was responsible for exacting on-behalf of the government tribute or Peishkush, from the Poligars and for remitting a stipulated amount of rent from the territories under his direct management known as *Sirkar lands.*

The poligars appropriated all the powers of the *renter* who was the nominee of the Nawab of Arcot to collect revenue, other tributes or peishkush from the Poligars. The renter also collected rent from the *Sirkar lands* which were directly under the control of the Nawab.

Thus there were two distinct classes of lands viz., the Palayam under the control of the Poligars and the Sirkar lands belonging to the Nawab of Arcot. But with their military strength the poligars refused to pay any tribute to the *Sirkar* and it was only by the intervention of military force that any contribution could be exacted from the Poligars. The refractory behaviour provoked the Nawab and also the English who by a treaty of 1792 acquired the control of the poligars.

The main features of the land system in the District under the Nawab of Arcot were that the dry lands were handed over to the ryots of a village in return for a fixed sum known as *Kattukuthagai* which was shared among the individual ryots in accordance with the extent cultivated by each ryot. This return from dry lands constituted only a small percentage of the revenue. But the revenue from the wet lands was considerable and the practice that prevailed during the period (1739-1800) was to divide the gross produce between the Nawab's government or the *Sirkar* and the ryots. During the management of the Sirkar lands by Muhammad Yusuf Khan, the assessment was collected in cash, in terms of the then prevailing prices. But the important principle during this period was to collect revenue *by any means that greed and ingenuity could divise*. In 1745 the demand which was till then seven kottais for a seed-kottai of land [6] in the case of the best lands was increased to eight. In 1746 a new tax called the *Yavana* was levied in addition to the regular demand on wet lands. In 1758, the amount of yavana was enhanced and an additional cess called the *channel cess* was imposed. In 1764 the yavana was doubled and another new tax called *nuzzer* was levied. Between 1770 and 1775 the exaction of Nawab reached its all time height when his share of the produce was fixed as 60 per cent. During this period yavana was temporarily abolished. In 1783-84 under the management of Mr.Irwin, receiver appointed by the East India company, the district was split up into groups of villages or *mittas* and leased to renters. From 1793-1799 the district was under amani. In 1800 the district was rented to seven renters for a period of three years by the Nawab. But the lease had to be cut short because of the change of government in 1801 when the English East India Company began to control the whole district.[7]

Though it would have been very much to the liking of the British to have introduced a simple and uniform system of land revenue administration everywhere in India there was no conceivable procrustean method by which it could be achieved. There was a great variety of system of land managment which differed very much among themselves and from area to area. All these native systems, which were to a great extent, the result of the absence of a strong central government for centuries in the country, had to be studied, thoroughly and adjusted

to suit the needs of the people and government. The process was therefore necessarily slow and in Tirunelveli there were *inter alia* the poligars to deal with.

The poligars who became semi-independent during the early years of the 18th century became very powerful and collected a large amount of revenue not only from their palayams but also from the sirkar lands which were under the control of the renter. They also assumed the powers of the Police (desakaval) and levied land taxes, taxes on ploughs, looms, shops, labourers and were armed with a band of people who enforced strict obedience. For about fifty years there were repeated expeditions by the Nawab and the English in order to supress the powerful poligars and to extort the payment from them. In 1792 by a treaty the poligars surrendered to the authority of the English East India Company. In July 1792 Mr. Benjamin Torin assumed the office of the 'Collector of Zamindary' and Poligar Peishkush in the Tirunelveli district. Mr. Landon succeeded him in the same year.[8] In 1794 Mr.Powney and in 1797 Mr.Jackson succeeded to the office. Between 1793 and 1799 Amani System was followed. When Mr.Lushington became Collector in 1801, Kar and Pisanam crops were under Amani system. In regard to the dry lands, money collections were made in accordance with the numberless rates and measurements which had long existed. Their treatment was from the outset different from that of the wet lands and the demand was supposed to approximate to one third of the gross produce. The Tirunelveli District was surveyed by Hill, Fletcher and Robinson during 1801-1808.[9]

Mr. Lushington found that in the accounts the dry lands were roughly divided into four classes namely *Karisal, Veppal, Pottal* and *Sevvel* and different rates were fixed for each. He adopted both recorded classification and rates and made the ryots apportion the assessment among themselves according to the quality of the land each man cultivated. In the next year the rates were increased to five number, but later it was reduced. A survey was put in hand, and the ryots of one village were told off to classify the lands of the next. Most of the ryots as might have been expected did the work in their own homes and they classified the best lands in the lowest tarams. In 1804 this survey work was again started and the rates were fixed in 1808 and these figures remained unaltered. It was between Rs.2-5-0 and Annas 10 per acre. To this rate number of miscellaneous charges, professional taxes and village dues of all kinds were added. In 1807 Yavana was abolished.[10].

In 1827 it was felt by the government that the orders to fix money rent upon the average produce and prices of a number of years had been interpreted that after ascertaining the average of any

village, the whole of the lands of the village, whether good or bad, were to be assessed at the same rate instead of being assessed according to the relative produce. The Board issued orders for the classification of the wet lands. Mr. Drury who was the Collector in 1828, followed the system introduced by Mr. Kindersley in the previous year 1827. The wet lands were divided into Kannars or blocks, accounts were prepared which showed the fields in consecutive order the extent of each and the standard of its productivity in terms of Kottais. By 1835, one hundred and forty six villages in the taluks of Tinnevelly, Tenkasi, Ambasamudram and Sankaranainarkoil had been treated in this manner. In the remaining villages the apportionment of the assessment remained in the hands of mirasidars. In 1839 the ammani system was altogether removed. Between 1842 and 1844 an experimental survey and settlement in modern line was carried out by E.B. Thomas, the then Collector in four villages. The commutation rate was Rs.2-4-0 for a Kottai. This settlement was apparently popular and its adoption actually resulted in a slight increase of revenue. It was felt that the rates were too low and so this scheme was not extended.

Inspite of all the patch work that had been attempted during the course of several years the revenue system was not satisfactory. Too many wet rates were in force for *Kar* and *Pisanam*. The average of the wet assessment was higher than in any other district in the Presidency. Under the best irrigation sources, wet lands paid twice as much as the average wet rate prevailing in Coimbatore district. In 1855 it was calculated that one third of the cultivable wet land was permanently waste, some because the rate made, cultivation unremunerative and some because it was not classed as wet land. In the river valley, a second crop on double crop lands often paid nearly 80 percent of the first crop charge. In the case of single crop land, the assessment due on a second crop varied according to the caprices of local customs. As a result of the arrangement by which the ryots themselves apportioned the assessments, gross irregularities existed. The poor man's land was at a disadvantage with that of the rich and there was no trace of the ryotwari system. The *Olungu* system based on a principle apparently sound, in that it accommodates itself to current prices was not proof aganist the effect of sudden rise of prices in the market and during the period of high prices which set in with 1853 the system actually raised the assessment to an almost impossible figures. There were not less than 146 Olungu rates in force in the various parts of the district and as the market price of grain was not fixed until the end of April towards the close of the *fasli*, the ryot never knew what the demand against him would be until he was called upon to pay it.

During the first fifty years of the 19th century amani management, triennial lease, decennial lease and finally the Olungu settlement, the revenue derived from ryotwari lands though subject to fluctuation, had averaged about Rs.17 lakh. From 1843 onwards, the price of grain had showed an upward trend in the market. But the increase was not sufficient to deprive the ryots of the benefits of the *Olungu price* and it was nearly double of what they had been ten years before.

By 1857, it was advanced to another 40 per cent and it was increased to another 25 per cent in 1858. The demand then stood at Rs.28 lakh which was a huge amount. The olungu system was clearly doomed and in the next year 1859-60 it was abandoned in favour of a new settlement called the *Mottafaisal.* It started under favourable conditions. By the new system, the Olungu standard price was adopted as the unalterable commutation rate. Although the price of grain actually fell in 1859-60 by over 30 per cent, due to the adoption of the fixed standard price Rs. 5 lakh was saved.

If the lands were irrigated by private wells, based on the nature of the crop grown, the assessment was levied. In 1841, it was decided that for those lands irrigated by the privately owned wells must pay *punjai* rates. In actual application, however, if the wells sunk after the year (fasli 1251) it would have the benefit of the concession as per the new rule, whereas the lands under *old* wells continued to pay at the old rates.

The Nanjai Mel Punjai[11] was the assessment levied on the wet land in which dry crops ragi, onion and senna were cultivated. Bagayat or Vanpayar was the levy collected for certain crops such as betel, sugarcane, tobacco, turmeric and plantains grown on wet land. A crop classed in one village as vanpayar was registered in another as Nanjai mel punjai. Under the Amani System it was impossible with most of these crops to divide the produce, consequently money-rent differed from village to village. Later it was decided that if the Nanjai rates were higher then that rate should be paid.

The charges known as Pattam and Poruppu were in the nature of favourable *quit rents* imposed on lands granted subject to certain conditions in regard to reclamation. A vexatious charge called *Desakaval* was levied on wet and dry lands as an additional cess. Poligars levied the same tax as *Watching Fees* and this was abolished at the settlement of the year 1874-1878.

Nilavari was levied on dry and wet lands and this included fees paid to the village servants, charges incurred by the villagers in buying limes when the headman went out to receive persons in authority, presents given to the huzur accountants at the time of Jamabandi, travelling

allowances for village headmen, fees paid by the Mahajanams to the taluk office clerks (gumastas) for giving them their proper titles. This tax was abolished in 1857. By 1859 the revenue system had been purged of many of its worse vices. Later two important registers called A and B were maintained and with the help of these the authorities determined the amount due by each ryot both on wet and dry lands. The B register exhibited the total extent of land occupied by each ryot. It also showed the extent of land cultivated in the last preceding fasli and it also gave the extent of fallow land details. The register was completed in 1864 and from that year onwards each ryot was responsible for the assessment on the extent of land entered in his name and received a patta showing the demand against him. In the case of wet lands this sum was calculated at the commutation rate either with reference to the standard Melvaram rate of the village or if the village had been classified according to the block rate'. In the case of the dry lands the taram rates were adopted. Another factor that inhibited the growth of cultivation was the mirasi tenure and this too was abolished during this time.

With regard to Palmyrah tax Mr. Lushington ordered them to levy tax on the basis of sex and age of the tree, and this varied from village to village. This tax was an important item of taxation from the time of Company's rule. Unauthorised cutting of the trees were penalised with penalty from 1851 onwards apart from palmyrah, coconut, illuppai, tamarind and mango were taxed. Mr. Puckle had remitted the charge for fruit trees growing on patta land except for such, as were owned by others than the land pattadars. For those and for fruit trees on poramboke lands and assessed wastes he fixed a scale of charges and issued *other item* pattas.[12]

Inams : The earliest methodical register prepared for Inams of this district was on 1814 under the orders of Mr. Cotton. This register and the successive Jamabandi statements provided the basic account for the Inam settlement of 1863 and the following years.

The *Dittam* was a deduction of a fixed extent and the *Ivu* of a percentage, from the annual cultivation of the village, the proportionate revenue demanded on which was paid over, in cash to the inam holder. Most of those inam lands were enjoyed by village-servants. The Pattam lands were wet lands which paid a low assessment in grain. The 'Poruppu' were lands which included both wet and dry and paid a low assessment in money in proportion to the extent of actual cultivation of the village. Similar remissions were the *chaturbogam* a deduction from the assessment allowed to the *Panguvalis* or Mirasidars and the *Mahajana Shortriyam*, a similar though smaller allowance.[13] According to tradition, these concessions were originally conferred by the Madurai Nayakkan rulers

on the numerous Brahman settlers whom they introduced from the north. The Ardhamaniayams paid half the full assessment. Kattukuthagai lands were grants made subject to a fixed favourable assessment. Inams paid by deduction from the village beriz with the exception of those rare cases in which they were commuted into land inams were not dealt with at the Inams settlement. An important item of land revenue which from the earliest times was collected and managed by goverment officers, was that connected with the temples of the district.

[14]The Devasthanam is consisting of Dasdic and of Maniyam revenue and the Tiruppani. Under the old Hindu Government, lands had been set apart for the support of a number of Hindu temples and fifty years before the assumption of the district by the English, the Nawab took possession of these lands and substituted for the income derived from them an allowance in money similar to *mohini allowance* in Thanjavur district. In Mr. Lushington's time this fund amounted to Rs.179,691. The practice continued of deducting this amount annually from the land revenue collections and apportioning it among the temples. The Maniyam revenues derived from lands, the assessment due on which had been alienated in favour of temples were also collected by the district officers and disbursed them to the various institutions. An annual income of about Rs.26,000 was derived from this source. The Tiruppani, which yielded a yearly income of about Rs.21,000 was derived mainly from a payment known as *porpichai - Alms from the heap* a deduction made from the gross produce of wet lands before the division was effected between the ryot and government. A similar payment levied in the case of dry lands only and known as *Khetwari* also contributed to the fund. The proceeds of devasthanam and tiruppani were spent on the maintenance of the temples scattered throughout the district. Besides these resources, the temples held land under the designation of Sarvamaniyam and Kattu Kuthagai, either free of assessment or on favourable tenures, many of the institutions also possessed ordinary ryotwari lands. The collection of the revenues, the management of their lands, the regulation of their daily expenses and periodical festivals, the maintenance of their fabric in fact to every item of receipt and expenditure were well maintained by the district authorities. At first the Tiruppani was collected by Tahsildars and disbursed by them at pleasure. But from 1806 this fund, like all other branches of temple revenue was paid into the treasury and entered in district accounts. Of the temples thus managed by government the majority received support from the Devasthanam fund, a few had lands only, a few only tiruppani, others had combinations of two or more of these sources of revenue.

But the revenue collection was not to satisfaction and so in 1840 the government dicided to withdraw itself from the management of

the temple. In 1841 the temples under government management were divided into two, namely, village temples and district temples. Village temples were handed over to village committees and in the case of district temples seven were handed over to trustees and two namely Nanguneri and Tirukkurungudi temples to Jeers.

In 1843, a lakh of rupees was spent from the Devasthanam fund on the construction of roads in the black-cotton country and in 1845, under the orders of the government of India, the Madras Government disposed of the remaining surplus funds by transferring them to the general education fund of the Presidency. The management of the lands belonging to the temple was handed over to their committees or trustees in 1849. The payment of the Tasdic allowance continued, the annual amount being fixed in 1846, at Rs. 1,81,368 with regard to the *porpichai* and *khetwari* payments, which constituted the bulk of the Tiruppani, some difficulty was felt. The payments were in theory atleast, of a purely voluntary character but the government compelled the ryots to continue the payments. It was ultimately decided in 1860 that the collection of these fees on the part of the Government should cease entirely and that any trustees who were willing to do so might receive good cultivable waste land in compensation. Otherwise they might themselves collect the old contributions from the ryots.

In 1864 two district committees, one for Saivite and the other for Vaishnavite temples were created and with the exception of the Nanguneri and Tirukkurungudi temples, which still continued under the control of their Jeers those temples which until 1841 had been under Government management were handed over to the newly formed bodies.

In 1865, it was decided to convert Tasdic allowances into assignments of land revenue. The matter was left for consideration at the settlement of the district. Little progress was made however and the matter continued under correspondence for years. Title deeds conveying inams with a total annual revenue of about Rs. 14,000/- had by 1895 been issued in the place of tasdic allowance. Of these inams some were again commuted into tasdic allowance, with the result that at the present day a very small fraction, less than 7 per cent of the original tasdic allowance is now enjoyed in the form of land revenue assignment.

Settlements

Adopting the latest techniques and principles of ryotwari system the Government wanted to survey this district in 1861 and as per this, the demarcation was started in 1862. Maintenance of correct revenue accounts and abolition of all vexatious taxes infused confidence,

and courage and happiness among the ryots. R.K. Puckle was appointed as Collector and Settlement Officer for this district in 1866, after perambulation in the district wrote on the conditions obtaining then.

It is little more than twenty years ago that ordinary land was hardly worth holding. The tax was high, the market prices were low, the crop was often sold before it was reaped and small land holders frequently left their lands and fled the country to avoid debts which they knew they could not meet. Only the best irrigated and garden lands had a marketable price and they were not worth generally more than Rs.100/- an acre.

Now, the worst irrigated lands are worth as much as the best were twenty years ago and the best are low worth upwards of Rs.1000 an acre. In fact, land is so valuable that there is literally no waste in some taluk all being held on patta. The increased value of land has led to improved cultivation. Communications have been improved, and prices in neighbouring districts have consequently been centralised. The gradual abatement of taxation and restrictive enactments, the abolition of fluctuating changes on the land and the stricter supervision of native subordinates have all tended to a certain degree to increase the value of land".

Puckle, for the purpose of settlement dlvided the district into its four natural divisions. (1) The *Nirarambam* a stretch of country comprising the tract (at that time 345 villages) irrigated by the Tambraparni and its affluents and remaining in a narrow strips through the five taluks of Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Ambasamudram, Tenkarai (Srivaikundam) and Nanguneri. (2) *Kadarambam* a region not so irrigated extending from the north to the south of the district and containing 409 villages. (3) the sandy tract of country generally referred to in the settlement records as the *palmyra forest*. in which palmyras largely take the place of cultivation. This region extending from the mouth of the Nambiyar eastwards for about forty miles with an average breadth of ten miles from north to south comprised 60 villages lying in the southwest of Nanguneri and the south of Tenkarai (Now Tiruchendur). (4) The plain of black-cotton soil (the modern Koilpatti and north Srivaikundam and Sattur) comprising 188 villages.

Soils of this district were classified into five classes namely regar clay, regar loam, regar sand, red loam and red sand. In the case of wet lands, they were placed in four groups arranged in 10 tarams ranging from Rs.12.00 to 2.00 per acre. Second crop was compounded at 2/3 for the first two tarams 1/2 for the third taram, 1/3 for the fourth taram and 1/4 for the rest. In the case of an occasional second crop on single crop wet land the charge was 3/4th of the wet assessment.

Lands which are irrigated by Kannadiyan and Palayam channels were placed in the first group and the land in the Theri villages were placed in the fourth group. Rest of the lands came in the second and third groups depending on the quality of irrigations.

Placed as one group, all dry lands were assessed in seven tarams ranging from Rs.2.8.0 to 0.4.0 per acre. Fertile red loam was classified as IV - I and higher rate was charged for it. The lands irrigated by old wells were called *Olaperi lands* and considered as improved dry lands for which special rates of Rs.5 or 3/8 per acre was the rate charged but this charge was abolished in 1883, *Teri* was termed as worse land and Rs.0-3-0 per acre was levied for this. In the case of loose red sand (VII-6) met within the *Teri* tract and classified as worse than worst red sand, a special low rate of Rs.0-30 per acre was levied.

In these classifications less attention was paid to dry lands. Since the bulk of the revenue on dry lands was raised by levying palmyra tax and consolidated with land settlement higher tarams were scarcely used. Mr. Puckle had also dispensed with calculation of standard crop outturn and prices for dry lands as he did for wet lands. He contended with the high pre-settlement rates and brought equitability without sacrificing any revenue. Puckle when appointed as the Director of Settlement 1874, retained the general supervision of settlement work, leaving the immediate charge of the work to A.T. Arundel, who as additional Sub-collector had been conducting the settlement of the Ambasamudram taluk.

Though the subject of Tirunelveli tree tax engaged the attention of the Government since 1843 no change was made in the old system. It was Mr. Puckle who viewed this matter seriously and for the sake of revenue purposes he divided trees into two categories namely *Sasvatham* and *other item* trees for the sake of revenue collections. Palmyrah trees in a survey field and there were no trees enjoyed by other persons and these palmyrah trees are solely enjoyed by the owner only were called sasvatham. The landowner was given complete ownership provided he made complete payment of tax for those trees apart from land assessment tax. These taxes. based on the figures recorded in the existing account was consolidated in the patta along with the land assessment. The pattadar might put and sell his trees or plant new ones without incurring any further charge. Thus the Government gave up its right to the timber also.

The Government continued to have full right in other item trees like timber. For cutting trees permission from Government was required failure of which would draw heavy penalty. Six paise each for kai and kattu trees and three pies for a Olaivettu tree whereas Vedali

trees were exempted from the levy. By this the tree owners were merged with the landowners over a period of time and at the time of resettlement there were only 1/3 of trees only to deal with.

Chatturbogam granted without consideration to certain privileged classes mostly Brahmins, was abolished, village cess of one anna in the rupee of assessment was levied. Fixed deductions were made in the revenue collections under the heads Dapati Maniam. Stalam Kaval and Karnams' salaries and this was formed into a fund to meet out the expenditure incurred for maintaining various new village establishments. Lands held in common enjoyment in villages were divided among the shareholders. For the village temple or the Sastam tank land, new deed was issued and the rest were left to apportion the proceeds among the shareholders.

In Tenkasi taluk a strip of the lower ghats was left 'as cattle excise ground'. In Tirunelveli and Nangunery taluks when the Government found it disproportionately expensive to maintain a number of small rainfed tanks, they gave the tanks along with their ayacuts to pattadars for their maintenance and special rates were charged for their acreage.

Resettlements

A resurvey of the district was found necessary and was put in exercise in 1904. D.T. Chadwick was appointed to the district as Settlement Officer and in 1905 he sent up his proposals for the resettlement of the three taluks of Tinnevelly, Tenkasi and Ambasamudram. There was an upward trend regarding the economic progress of this district for the past thirty years. So the settlement had been followed by a striking increase of cultivation in all the taluks ranging from 14 to 55 per cent.

For wet lands it was decided to limit the actual enhancement of the rates to 121/2 per cent. Suitable adjustment was made in the classification of irrigation sources, based on the percentage of the ayacut regularly cultivated with a second crop. For dry lands the highest two tarams which specially related to 'Olapperi' or permanently improved lands and last three tarams were left undisturbed, whereas the other intermediate five tarams were enhanced by $12^1/2$ per cent as for wet lands. All dry lands were placed under a single dry group.

With regard to palmyra tax at the resettlement, the old classification based on sex and age of the tree was given up. All palmyras whether on patta lands, porambokes or assessed wastes were counted and divided into two classes namely *Smooth* which is used for tapping and *rough* not used for tapping. Vadalis were ignored. The district was divided into *groups* according to the general quality and value of the palmyrahs and a uniform scale of rates was imposed on all palmyras irrespective of the kind of land in which they stood.

In respect of all palmyra standing on patta lands Government waived their right to the timber. To meet the problem of *mixed holdings* it was decided that, separate tree pattas for *other item* trees on occupied land should no longer be issued. Such trees and any sasvatham trees which might exist in a survey field should be entered in patta of the landholder only.

As a rule the land pattadar bought the palmyras from the tree pattadar, in other cases the tree pattadar bought the land. In some cases joint pattas were issued in the names of the pattadar of the land and the former pattadar of the trees, in some case with the land pattadar's consent, the portion of land containing the *Other item* trees was subdivided off and assigned to the tree pattadar. Sometimes the tree pattadar, after paying for the Government share of the timber was allowed to cut and remove his trees. In fact, compromises of all kinds were effected with the object of securing a consumation, for which the ryots as a body were no less eager than the revenue officers. The result was an appreciable one and it was solely due to the personal exertions and influence of Mr. Chadwick, the Settlement Officer. Mr. Chadwick's resettlement was a continuation of the steps taken by Mr. Puckle and this was considered as a pioneering effort to rationalise the land tax structure in the district.

The second resettlement was due in 1935 but it was decided by the Government to abandon it. The palmyra tax which was unique to this district caught the attention of the Government. In 1949 the tax on palmyra trees standing on wet lands were abolished. [15] The palmyra tax on dry land was also given up later.[16] Thus the chequered history of this palmyra tax in this district came to an end.

It was around 1911 that a reorganisation of the taluks was made and subsequently Sathur and Srivilliputhur taluks were transferred to Ramanathapuram district (present Kamarajar district) The Perambulation report was prepared under the supervision of the Settlement Officer for this district.[17]

In adopting the ryotwari settlement a significant depature was made by providing for manavari classification of dry lands capable of raising wet crops, but not commanded by an irrigation source, the appropriate assessment being one taram higher than the corresponding dry assessment. The soils were classified into three series as Regar, Red ferruginous and Arenaceous. At the last resettlement only two series were adopted. The regar series was sub-divided into clay, loam and sand, while the red ferruginous and arenaceous series were sub-divided into loam and sand. Five sorts were adopted under each class except the arenaceous series which was accommodated into three sorts.

The additional sort VII- A was retained for the fertile soil in the villages at the foot of the hills, but sort VIII-6 was scrapped as not warranted on merits.

Four classes of classification were depending on their nature and capacity of supply accorded to the irrigation sources. They follow the same principles laid down in the resettlement notification of Tirunelveli district. First class sources comprised riverfed sources, 85 per cent of the area under which is regularly cultivated with two wet crops. Second class sources comprised riverfed sources, 50 per cent to 85 per cent of the area under which is regularly cultivated with two irrigated crops one of which is a wet crop. Third class sources comprised all riverfed sources less than 50 per cent of the area under which is cultivated two irrigated crops and all rainfed sources affording more than five months supply. The Fourth class comprised rainfed and other sources affording less than five months' supply.

At present collections are made from January in 3/4 instalments based on provisional demands. The Jamabandi is held in March, April and May when the demands are finally settled. After this adjustments are made for excess collection.[18]

Under the present system, soils are divided into various classes, based on their physical characteristics and chemical contents and further sub-divided into sorts based on the locational and other advantages of fields. In respect of each settlement tract, grain values have been worked out for each class and sort of soil based on typical crop out-turns. The grain value has been converted into money values based on average of prices for 20 non-famine years preceding the year of settlement.[19] The net income is worked out by deducting from the money value, the cost of cultivation and an allowance for seasonal variations. One half of the net income so determined is taken as the assessment.[20]

At present, the Tirunelveli district is consisted of three revenue divisions (Tirunelveli, Charanmahadevi and Tenkasi) ten taluks, 56 firkas, 631 revenue villages, three development divisions, 19 panchayat unions, 424 village panchayats, 37 town panchayats six municipalities and one Municipal corporation.

Village administrative officers are solely responsible for the collection of land revenue in the respective revenue villages under their control. They maintain Attankal cita book which has the details of the cultivations that have taken place in the revenue village. Village map and other details of the village are properly maintained by them and those books are scrutinised by the revenue inspectors and regional deputy Tahsildars. It is the duty of the Village Administrative Officer to write the land revenue accounts in the 13,14,15,16 number accounts books properly.

Village account No.20 gives details of the rainfall that occurred in the village and this is registered in the book by the village administrative officer immediately.[21]

The land revenue demand collection and balance for the year from 1985 to 1991.[22]

Years	Demand	Collection	Balance
1984-85	1,60,97,157	1,08,81,488	52,15,669
1985-86	1,71,49,497	1,36,73,885	34,75,612
1986-87	97,26,807	67,86,909	29,39,896
1987-88	1,00,08,505	86,88,773	13,19,732
1988-89	96,25,472	91,69,049	4,56,423
1989-90	1,07,04,435	1,02,00,579	5,03,856
1990-91	1,11,78,853	1,02,19,693	9,59,160

Natham Survey work in Tirunelveli District

Natham Survey was ordered in November 1987 in Tamil Nadu State[23] and it was put into operation in this district from 25 January 1988. Initially survey is conducted regarding the existing Natham Punjai and the other Punjai lands and lands used for other purposes in the revenue villages are measured and as per the survey, pattas are issued to the respective farmers. After the survey operation is completed at field level, the survey staff hands over the records to the Assistant Director of Survey for scrutiny.

During the course of scrutiny of the records by the team of the Assistant Director of Survey, the area is computed. Fair originals are prepared, details are inserted in the village maps and entries are made in the House Tax Register. Then a copy of the Record is handed over to the Special Tahsildar, Natham Settlement along with the following nine records namely (1) Duplicate Field Measurement Book (2) Combined Sketch, (3) Duplicate House Tax Assessment Register (4) Encroachment Register (5) Fair Area List (6) Fair Location Sketches (7) Sale Statistic Register and (8) House Tax Demand Register by the Inspector of Survey for further action.

The Special Tashildar Natham Settlement issues Natham House site patta after observing the settlement formalities and hands over the following records namely (1) field measurement book (2) 'A' register and (3) Chitta to the Taluk Tahsildar concerned for follow up.

In this district, this Natham survey was completed in Nanguneri, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Tenkasi, Sankarankoil, Sivagiri,

Veerakeralamputhur and Ambasamudram. In Radhapuram taluk, pattas have been issued to the respective persons concerned.[23A] Thirteen Notification for 449 villages have been published and for 113 villages original records have been sent to Survey Office, Madras. For the remaining villages the above work is on process. The statement on issue of pattas is furnished in *Appendix - 1*.

Implementation of Land Reforms measures and Legislative Development.

Land is an important source of production. Prevention of inequitable distribution of wealth has been an accepted principle of our Government in order to ensure social and economic justice among our people. With this view various measures of land reforms have been introduced after independence and they are being implemented to bring about a fair economic system which would also serve to maximise production and lead to national prosperity. Under the Prime Minister's Twenty Point Programme 1986, the enforcement of Land Reforms has been given the fifth place.

The Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of ceiling on Land) Act 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act No.58 of 1961) as amended.

The ceiling area for a family of five members was fixed at 30 standard acres with an allowance of five standard acres for each additional member in the family subject to overall ceiling area of 60 standard acres for a family. Subsequently the ceiling area was reduced to 15 standard acres per family of five members with effect from the 15th February 1970. In addtion to this, female member was allowed to hold 10 standard acres, towards stridhana land, if she held the land as on the date of the commencement of the Act in her name. However, a family cannot hold more than 30 standard acres. The land found to be in excess of the ceiling area is acquired as surplus by Government, after following the procedure prescribed in the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms Fixation of Ceiling on Land Act 1961 as amended. The surplus land is distributed among landless agricultural labourers and other eligible persons according to the provisions contained in the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Disposal of Surplus Land) Rules 1965 as amended.

In Tamil Nadu, an extent of 1,88,380 acres of land has been notified as surplus. Out of this an extent of 1,63,722 acres of land has been disposed of upto 30 November 1994. An extent of 9724 acres has been reserved under rule 13 of the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Disposal of Surplus Land) Rules 1965 for public purposes out of the total extent disposed of upto 30 November 1994.

In the district of Tirunelveli alone an extent of 14385 acres of land was notified as surplus upto 30 November 1994. Out of this,

an extent of 14, 215 acres of land has been assigned to 7877 eligible persons.

Tenancy Laws

The Tamil Nadu cultivating Tenants Protection Act 1955 (*Tamil Nadu Act No. 25/55*)

The agrarian unrest earlier witnessed in Thanjavur district, spread to other areas. The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection Act 1955 was therefore passed to provide security of tenure to tenant cultivators in the interest of social justice and agricultural production. A cultivating tenant is not liable for eviction so long as he pays the rent and does not act in a way injurious to the land or the crop thereon and also does not use the land for non-agricultural purposes and does not deny the title of the land-owner to the land. Disputes under the Act are settled by Revenue courts, presided over by Special Deputy Collectors.

Owing to drought, floods and seasonal fluctuations in the State, the tenants were not in a position to pay the rents due to the landowners. It was felt that there was need to allow the time to rehabilitate themselves before they would be in a position to pay the arrears of rent. Accordingly, a moratorium on eviction of tenants on the ground of non-payment of rent had been in force since 1972. This period of moratorium was extended then and there. On account of the accumulation of large amount of arrears of rent due to the protection given to tenants over a long period of time, it was not possible for the cultivating tenants to pay the arrears in a lumpsum and they were in danger of being evicted on a large scale. The Government have, therefore, enacted the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Arrears of Rent (Relief) Act 1990. By this Act, relief was given to the cultivating tenants by discharging them from the payment of all arrears of rent payable to the land owners or the public trusts for the fasli year ending with 30th June 1989 and for any previous fasli year and outstanding on the date of publication of the above said Act, if they pay the rent due for the fasli year commencing from 1 July 1989 and ending with 30 June 1990 in full and one-fourth of the total of arrears of rent (Without interest) which accrued due to the land owners or public trusts for the period ending with 30th June 1989 on or before 31st March 1991 or if they pay the rent for the fasli year commencing from 1st July 1989 and ending with 30th June 1990 in full on or before 31st March 1991 and one third of the total amount of arrears of rent (without interest) which accrued due to the landowners or public trusts for the period ending with 30th June1989 in five equal annual instalments, the first instalment of which shall be paid on or before 31st March 1991, the proceedings for eviction of cultivating tenants or recovery of arreas of rent were

barred. Any cultivating tenant, who was evicted for the non-payment of rent on or after 1st April 1990, but before the date of publication of the Act, on application, within three months from the date of such publication, be entitled to be restored possession of such land and to hold it with rights.

According to the provisions of the above said Act the competent authority (Revenue Court) has to issue notice to the landlord or to the public trust, as the case may be regarding the correct amount of rent and determine, after enquiry the quantum of the amout to be paid by the cultivating tenant as specified in the Act. The Revenue Court has to allow the cultivating tenant to deposit further sum due, not exceeding thirty days from the 31st March 1991. It was found that it would not be possible for the Revenue Courts to decide the cases within thirty days from the 31st March 1991 and therefore to enable the Revenue Court to decide the issue as per the Act, the Government extended the aforesaid time limit of thirty days to four months i.e. upto 31st July 1991 through an Amendment Act. The Revenue Courts have now settled the amounts. As on date, the cultivating tenants can be evicted from their tenanted lands for the non-payment of arrears of rent.

The progress made under the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants Protection Act 1955 in respect of Tirunelveli district as on 31st October 1994 were number of cases for disposal 239, number cases disposed 119, and the balance 120.

The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act 1956.

The passing of the Cultivating Tenants Protection Act necessitates the regulations of the rent payable by the tenants and settlement of disputes. This Act was therefore enacted. Rates of fair rent were fixed for wet lands, wet lands supplemented by lift irrigation and other classes of lands. The owner of the land is entitled to get fair rent (grain) at 25 per cent of gross produce-fixed under this Act, as amended by the Act 17/80. The land owner pays the land revenue and other dues on the land while the tenant bears the expenses of cultivation. Revenue Courts have been constituted for deciding disputes in this regard.

Progress under the Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Payment of Fair Rent) Act 1956 in respect of Tirunelveli District as on 31st October 1994 is 113 total number of cases, orders passed 57 and balance 56.

The Tamil Nadu Public Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act 1961.

Religious institutions and public trusts own vast areas of cultivable lands. As part of the agrarian reforms, the Act fixed a ceiling of 20 standard acres for direct cultivation by such institutions and trusts. The Act aims at weeding out bogus leases. Apart from regulating and administering the lands held by the public trusts, the Act deals also with the protection to the Cultivating Tenants under the Public trusts from eviction and with the matters relating to the determination of rent payable by the cultivating tenants for their tenanted lands under the public trusts.

Progress under this Act in respect of Tirunelveli disrict as on 31st October 1994 is 1505 total number of cases, 607 orders passed and balances.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands Record of Tenancy Right Act 1969.

This Act provides for the preparation and maintenance of complete record of tenancy rights to safeguard the interests of tenants. The records of tenancy rights had been prepared and printed after elaborate publication, inspection and enquiry.

The Government have also enacted the Amendment Act 45 of 1981 and inserted section 5-A in the Record of Tenancy Rights Act 1969, making provision for the constitution of Advisory Committees at taluk level, consisting of one landless agricultural labourer belonging to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes, one tenant and three social workers to assist the Record Officers in the discharge of their functions in the preparation of Records of Tenancy Rights. The tenure of office of the said members shall be extended for such a period not exceeding six years by notification by the Government. The main function of the Advisory committee is to gather information and particulars regarding the land situated in the Taluk with the names and address of landowners, intermediaries and the tenants cultivating such lands and to make such recommendation for registering the cultivating tenants. Under the Act 4,97,484 tenants have been registered in the State covering an extent of 6,93,071 acres upto 31 October 1994.

Progress made under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Lands Record of Tenancy Right Act 1969 in respect of Tirunelveli district were 69, 628 total number of tenants registered and total extent of land registered under tenancy were 48,523 acres. Regarding the number of beneficiaries scheduled castes were 32850 persons and scheduled tribes were 36,778 persons.

The Tamil Nadu occupants of Kudiyiruppu (Conferment of ownership) Act 1971 and the Tamil Nadu Rural Artisan (Conferment of ownership of Kudiyiruppu) Act 1976 (President's Act No.38/76) as amended.

These Acts provide for the conferment of ownership rights on agriculturists, agricultural labourers and rural artisans over the kudiyiruppu they were occupying on the dates prescribed in the Acts. The home steads (Kudiyiruppu) are assigned to the Kudiyiruppudars free from all encumbrances. Compensation is paid by the Government to the owner of Kudiyiruppus. Alienation of the site for ten years is prohibited.

1,80,482 persons have been conferred with ownership rights for the kudiyiruppus under the Conferment of Ownership Act 1971 upto 31 October 1994 comprising 99,211 scheduled castes, 2209 scheduled tribes and 79062 others.

In respect of Tirunelveli district 1026 Kudiyiruppudars have been conferred with ownership rights. Similar action has been taken under the Tamil Nadu Rural Artisans (Conferment of Ownership of Kudiyiruppu) Act 1976. Four hundred and nine persons have been conferred with ownership rights for the kudiyiruppus under this Act upto 31 October 1994 comprising 45 scheduled castes, 15 scheduled tribes and 349 others. In respect of Tirunelveli district no kudiyiruppudars have been conferred with ownership rights under this Act. Whereas under the Act No.40/71, the beneficiaries in this district were 1026 and in that scheduled caste and tribes were 786 and under Act No.38/76 there were no beneficiaries.

The Goverment have extended benefit of the conferment of ownership of kudiyiruppus also for those who were in occupation of the kudiyiruppu as on 1 April 1990 through an amended Act 39/90. In respect of Tirunelveli distict, no kudiyiruppudar has been conferred with ownership right under the said Amendment.

The minimum wages Act 1948.

Wages for employment in agricultural sector

The provisions of the Minimum wages Act 1948 are being implemented in agriculture and other allied items of work. This Act is implemented throughout the State of Tamil Nadu, except a few taluks covering East Thanjavur district, where the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Labourers Fair Wages Act 1969 are in force. The Regular revenue staff are made responsible for the implementation of this Act in the agricultural sector. Disputes on claims under the Act are enquired into and settled by the regular revenue staff authorised in this regard. The minimum rates of wages for employement in agricultural sector were recently revised by the Government from the 3rd April 1989 and they are as given below:

1.	Employee engaged in ploughing with bullocks and plough supplied by him.	Rs. 32	per day
2.	Employee engaged in ploughing with bullocks and not with plough	Rs. 16	per day
3.	Employee engaged in harvest of paddy crop reaping, carrying it to thrashing area, removing husk, measuring and bagging.	Rs. 16	per day or kind
4.	Employee engaged in harvest of crops of the work or in a share of 1/8 of the gross yield of produce whichever is higher.other than paddy.	Rs.16	per day
5.	Employee engaged in sewing, plucking weeds, replanting of seedlings.	Rs.16	per day
6.	Employee engaged in other agricultural works namely trimming bounds and fields, bee-keeping, poultry farming, dairy-farming and climbing of the trees etc.	Rs.15	(plucking and replucking)
7.	Attached labourer/ Resident labourer.	Rs. 375	per month

The agriculturists were paid the wages as fixed by the Collector according to the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. The wages are to be revised as and when necessary and the rates so revised are to be notified in the Gazettes [24].

Legislation on Benami transfer of land

In order to tackle the benami transfers of land affected by a number of land owners to defeat the very object of the land reform legislation, the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms namely (Fixation of ceiling on land) Amendment Bill 1991 was introduced on 3 October 1991 and passed by the State Legislature[25]

Bhoodan Movement in Tirunelveli district

As aganist acquiring excess lands from land lords through legislation, the Bhoodan movement started by Vinobaji, aims, to bring about the change of heart with the land lords and to pursuade them to donate the land volutarily for being allotted to the landless poor. Acharya Vinobahave undertook a pilgrimage to Tamil Nadu for nearly 12 months i.e. from 13th May 1956 to 18th April 1957. During that time he

induced the big landlords and other land owning people to gift a part of their land for the Bhoodhan and Gramdhan Movement.

This movement had effect throughout Tamil Nadu and 48000 acres of land were secured as Bhoodan and were distributed to landless labourers throughout Tamil Nadu. Since the cultivating masses were very poor economically, most of the lands so distributed remained low cultivated indefinitely. Considering the peculiar cirumstances in which they were placed in life, the government desired to bring all such lands under cultivation.

Accordingly, the Tamil Nadu Bhoodan Board, a statutory body was constituted under the Tamil Nadu Bhoodan Yagna Act 1958 to facilitiate the donations of the land under the Bhoodan and to administer these lands and also to provoke Gramadhan idealogy. The headquarters of the Gramadhan Yagna Board (Bhoodan Board) is at Madurai and it is under the administrative control of the Special Officers in the cadre of Deputy Collector who is having jurisdiction over the entire state.

The donation was effected in 365 villages in Tirunelveli district. So far 672820 hectares of lands have been acquired under Bhoodan movement. Out of this 644980 hectares were distributed among the landless agricultural labourers and 27840 hectares are yet to be distributed.

Nine persons were selected among the Bhoodan beneficiaries in Nanguneri panchayat union from Pathaigam village during 1993-94 and were given training under Trysem Scheme in spinning. During 1994-95 also, 21 beneficiaries under Bhoodan movement from the same panchayat union were selected and permitted to dig well for cultivation under Jeevandara scheme. In 1994-95, two persons were selected from the Bhoodan movement beneficiaries from Kadayanallur area and were given loan to purchase milching cows, under I.R.D.P. Scheme. In Mulakkaripatti village in Nanguneri panchayat union, 24 acres of land acquired under Bhoodan movement were utilised for cultivation of social forestry.[28]

Gramadhan

Gramadhan movement was started in1956. A village or part ot it becomes eligible for gramadhan, if not less than two third of the number of persons residing and owning lands donate all their lands for Gramdhan or if not less than one half of this total extent of the lands owned by persons residing and owning lands therein is donated for Gramadhan. In Tirunelveli district 4319 pattas were issued and 16613.71 acres of lands were distributed until 1996.

Issue of 2 C Pattas in Tirunelveli district are given below:

	Taluks	*Total No. of 2C pattas issued*	*Total tress*	*Revenue derived from 2C pattas trees in Rs.*
1.	Tirunelveli	3409	39481	42942.00
2.	Palayamkottai	1	92	92.00
3.	Sankarankoil	1	2	12.00
4.	Ambasamudram	59	2476	7635.00
5.	Nanguneri	2366	48685	50465.00
6.	Radhapuram	2804	32387	40723.00
7.	Tenkasi	1882	29100	63801.00
8.	Senkottai	13	172	1169.00
9.	Veerakeralampudur	2287	15396	33700.00
10.	Sivagiri	4	89	89.00
	Total	12806	167880	240628.00

Rates fixed for each category of tree are as follows

For a tamarind tree Rs.61, mango tree Rs. 6, Jack fruit tree Rs. 6/- coconut tree Rs. 8, palmyra tree (matured) Rs.1, palmyra tree (tender) Rs. 0.50 A family can have a maximum number of five tamarind trees or 25 coconut trees or 50 palmyra trees under 2 C patta. Under this the holder can enjoy the usufruct but has no right to cut the trees. In this, the ladies from depressed classes are given priority.[28] Apart from this Village Administrative Officers are requested to plant 50 trees per month and they are requested to send their report on 10th of every month.[29]

Progress of planting of trees

	Taluks	*No.of trees planted.*
1.	Tirunelveli	1167
2.	Palayamkottai	177
3.	Sankarankoil	113
4.	Ambasamudram	310

5.	Nanguneri	1105
6.	Radhapuram	5658
7.	Tenkasi	2
8.	Sengottai	710
9.	Veerakeralampudhur	1764
10.	Sivagiri	–
	Total	11006

Relations between landlord and tenants: History of relationship and measures taken to secure the interests of the tenant class

Since the introduction of Ryotwari system, there has been no management of Estate Manager. Unsettled areas are being administered through taluk Tahsildars of Revenue department. At this stage, the relationship among the agricultural labourers, tenants and owners are discussed. At times of inflation and season there are echos of labourer's demands. In order to avert misunderstanding leading to law and order problems among agricultural labourers, tenants and owners, peace talks are initiated by administration and ways and means for settlement are enlisted to governemnt. The Government on examining the position pass orders revising the existing rate of wages of agricultural labourers. The revision always, renovates only after the arising of disputes among the labourers and owners and tenants are reluctant to hear their voices. On the other hand, they press for the payment of wages fixed once by Government. The revision of such wages is not periodical having due regard to the high cost of living and other relative factors. Depending on variation in these factors revision of wages may be taken up to put an end, to unnecessary disputes which might cause law and order problems.

Similarly, there are disputes between tenants and owners on the possession and enjoyment and on the non-payment of agreed warams or excess demand of warams by the owners. These disputes are being settled and many are still pending settlement in the appropriate forums. The stagnation of relief at both ends is due to the delay in the disposal of pending cases in administration forms. The policy of the Government is that the tiller of land should be made its owner and to achive this objective the Government have taken legislative measures.[30]

Revenue derived from commercial tax in Tirunelveli District

Tirunelveli district was under the charge of a Commercial Tax Officer from 20 July 1939 with the inception of the Department. As

the work increased, an additional Commercial Tax office was formed from 2 May 1951 and there were two Commercial Tax Officers were incharge of the district, one called Commercial Tax Officer, Tirunelveli East with headquarters at Tuticorin and the other Tirunelveli West with headquarters at Tirunelveli. The jurisdiction of each was comprised as follows:-

Tirunelveli East had Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur, Kovilpatti taluks and Tisayanvilai and Vijayanarayanam firkas of Nanguneri taluk up to 1953. From 1 April 1953 it has Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur and Kovilpatti taluks only.

Tirunelveli west had Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Sankarankoil and Nanguneri taluks excluding Vijayanarayanam and Tisayanviali firkas upto 31 March 1953. From 1 April 1953 it has Tirunelveli, Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi and Sankarankoil taluks.

Consequent on the reorganisation of the department with effect from 1 October 1958[31] the Commercial tax district Kanniyakumari was abolished and merged with the Commercial Tax district of Tirunelveli (West) District. The Revenue taluk of Sankarankoil from the Tirunelveli (West) District was transferred to the Tirunelveli East. The jurisdiction of the Commercial Tax Officer, Tirunelveli west was comprised of Tirunelveli, Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Tenksi, and Shencottah taluks in the Tirunelveli Revenue District and Agastheeswaram, Thovalai, Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks in Kanniyakumari district.

Consequent on the final reorganisation of the department with effect from 1 April 1959 the commercial tax district of Tirunelveli East was abolished[32] and merged with the Tirunelveli west district. The latter was named as the Tirunelveli Commercial Tax district comprising the Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Revenue districts.

The Tirunelveli Commercial Tax district has been bifurcated into two Commercial Tax districts namely Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari Commercial Tax district with effect from 1 October 1982 with the following jurisdiction.[33] Tirunelveli covering entire taluks of Tirunelveli, Nanguneri and Ambasamudram are under the control of Assistant Commissioner. The entire revenue district of Kanniyakumari is placed under another Assistant Commissioner, Kanniyakumari.

The Officers of the Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Tenkasi, Shencottah have been brought under the administrative control of Assistant Commissioner Tirunelveli with effect from 1 October 1983. Further the office of the Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, Sankarankoil has been brought under administrative control of Assistant Commissioner, Tirunelveli with effect from 1 October 1987.

At present the Tirunelveli Commercial Tax district is comprised of Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Shencottah, Sankarankoil, Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks. The nine Commercial Tax Offices are at Tirunelveli Junction, Deputy Commercial Tax Office Tirunelveli, Tirunelveli Bazaar Commercial Tax Office, Palayamkottai, Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Nanguneri and Ambasamudram, Commercial Tax Office, Tenkasi, Deputy Commercial Tax Office, Shencottai and Commercial Tax Office, Sankarankoil. The Commercial Tax Department enforces the following Acts, Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act 1959, Central Sales Tax Act 1956, Tamil Nadu Additional Sales Tax Act 1970, Tamil Nadu Surcharge Act 1991, Tamil Nadu Tax on Luxuries in Hotels and Lodging Houses Act 1981, Tamil Nadu Entry of Motor vehicles Local Areas Act 1990, Tamilnadu Entertainment Tax Act 1939 and the Tamil Nadu Betting Tax Act 1935.[34]

Measures like critical check of accounts, conducting of shop inspection, check of goods, vehicles, verification of bills and extracts and inspection of cinema houses are the responsibilities of this department. Besides these administrative work, attentive vigil is kept on the mercantile public in order to avoid evasion of legitimate due to the Government. Enforcement wing is taking proper action in this regard. Details of incidence, assesment, collection of commercial taxes in this district are provided in *Appendix - 2.*

Revenue collection through Registration

Income through Registration is one of the major sources of income to the Government.The policies of the Government may vary from time to time and this has great impact on the collection of revenue. Sometimes, it may show increasing trend and sometimes a decreasing trend too. But almost the income to the Government from the Registration department has been generally increasing year by year.This department is functioning from 1864 onwards.There are four registration districts found in Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Cheranmahadevi, and Tenkasi. Each registration district is placed under the administrative control of District Registrar. Acts implemented by this department are; The Indian Registration Act 1982, Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975, Indian Special Marriage Act 1954, The Hindu Marriage Act 1957, The Parsee Marriage and Divorce Act 1967, The Tamil Nadu Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969 and Indian Partnership Act 1965. These Acts are implemented in the district and a considerable amount of revenue is derived by the implementation of these Acts.[35] Apart from these, this department plunge into action and found out the unregistered chit funds and force them to register their funds. Thus it earns an income to the Government and also offers protection to the public for investing their money. Another noteworthy thing here is in the collection of stamp duties.The Tirunelveli

Registration district occupies second place in the entire Tamil Nadu. Registration fees derived from 1985-86 to 1994-95 are given in *Appendix - 3.*

Forest Revenue

Forest reserves are one of the important sources of revenue in this district. But, at present th department is trying to protect and develop natural forest in order to maintain ecological balance. This department mainly aims at the conservation of the forest. The main sources that fetch income to this department are through sale of cashewnuts, raising of plantations like tamarind and neem and pongai and raising sale of fuel woods and minor forest products like bamboo, vagai, velvel, achan, parabai etc.

Sale of sandalwood trees also is a major source of income. Apart from these, fines and forfeitures, rent on building, income from sale of confiscated forest produce and income from grazing are the major sources of income of this department.[36]

Forest Revenue from 1985-86 to 1994-95

Year	*Collection of Revenue in Rs.*
1985-86	–
1986-87	13,57,644
1987-88	10,81,630
1988-89	8,05,906
1989-90	12,62,502
1990-91	22,02,257
1991-92	9,94,655
1992-93	24,83,090
1993-94	28,68,016
1994-95	22,68,580

Revenue from Income tax

Revenue from Income tax collection is one of the main sources of income in this district. The number of assessees, demand and collection are given from 1980-81 to 1994-1995.[37]

Year	*Number of assessees.*	*Demand (Rs.in 000s)*	*Collection (Rs.in 000s)*
1980-81	4261	8366	7646
1981-82	4804	9988	8973
1982-83	4934	11731	10473
1983-84	5694	12704	11412
1984-85	6108	13391	12252
1985-86	6979	15142	14521
1986-87	7930	17991	17480
1987-88	8422	19053	18815
1988-89	8878	21028	19461
1989-90	9394	22815	21480
1990-91	10239	26636	25352
1991-92	11242	58112	53475
1992-93	11305	79878	67270
1993-94	13096	93236	78202
1994-95	14651	73123	93759
1995-96	14745	90723	132931

Sometimes the quantum of Income tax is affected due to disputes in appeal.

Central Excise and Customs

Excise Duty was first introduced in Holland in 16th Century and spread subsequently to England, Europe and in India in 17th and 18th Centuries. During Mughal period, Excise duty was levied on perfumery, indigo, soap making, edible oil, printed glass and tobacco. During early British period, excise duty was levied on dairy products, handlooms, smelted iron, sugar, cloth and leather goods. In 1870, duty was levied on salt. In 1944 all the regulations made from time to time for individual commodities were consolidated to a single enactment namely, central Excise and Salt Act 1944. This Act came into force from 28th February 1944. Collection of Excise and Customs duties is vested with the Central Government. The Union Excise contributes about 42 per cent of the revenue collection of the Central Government. The Central Excise duty stands first in the collection of revenue for the central government. Hence it can be called the backbone of the government. Even after

Independence many of the items were imported into India to supply the needs of the people as well as requirement of the industries in India. However, in the recent period there has been a lot of changes in the Export and Import policy. Particularly after the introduction of liberalisation of economy Government of India gives much importance to the area of export. It also gives incentive for the development of export and indigenous industry.

There are eight ranges in Tirunelveli district namely Tirunelveli, Sankara Nagar,Palayamkottai, Ambasamudram - I, Ambasamudram - II, Valliyoor, Mukkudal and Tenkasi. Taxes are levied on bidies, cement, cotton yarn, cotton fabrics, paper, rubber products, calcium carbide, iron and steel, machineries, aerated waters, sewing threads, P.V.C.pipes, RCC poles, aluminum condensers, tea, chewing tobaco, matches, plastic articles, wood and wooden articles, M.V. Trailors, copper and copper articles, soaps and fire works.

The revenue collected by this department in Tirunelveli District from 1986-1987 to 1995-1996 is as detailed below.[38]

Sl.No.	*Year*	*Revenue Collected. (Rs. in crores)*
1.	1986-87	42.25
2.	1987-88	40.85
3.	1988-89	41.27
4.	1989-90	44.60
5.	1990-91	47.90
6.	1991-92	55.56
7.	1992-93	72.59
8.	1993-94	73.93
9.	1994-95	99.04
10.	1995-96	98.62

Central Government introduced Service Tax on certain services namely stock brokers, telephone services and general insurance providing taxable services to any person with effect from 1 Juiy 1994. The scope of service tax is extended to the Service Tax on pagers, advertising agencies and courier service agencies from 1 November 1996. Subsequently service tax has been extended to other services viz., steamer agents, clearing and forwarding agencies, air travel agencies, mandap keepers, construction agencies, consulting engineers, man power

recruitment agencies, rent on cable operators, outdoor caterers, pandal and shamiyana contractors and tour operators. From 15 November 1997 onwards goods from Transport Operators *of all categories have been brought under excise net.*

The total number of assessees registered under Service Tax categories in Tirunelveli District as on 1 November 1997 are 268. The total revenue collected as service tax from the above assessees are furnished below:-

Year	*Service Tax Collected (Rs. in lakhs)*
1994-95	52
1995-96	113
1996-97	199
1997-98 (upto October 1997)	132

Revenue from Excise

The office of the Assistant Commissioner Excise is functioning as a part of the Collectorate, Tirunelveli district. The Assistant Commissioner Excise is exercising certain statutory powers independently and he is assisting the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, the District Collector and the District Revenue Officer, in respect of certain matters for which these officials are licensing authorities. All other administrative functions are inter associated with the general branch of the Collectorate.

There are three Divisional Excise Offices at Tirunelveli , Tenkasi and Cheranmahadevi. Each is under the control of Divisional Excise Officer functioning from 1991.

The Divisional Excise Offices for Tirunelveli and Tenkasi division are situated in the respective divisional headquarters. But, the Divisional Excise Officer for Cheranmahadevi division holds his offices at Nanguneri, instead of, at the Divisional headquarters at Cheranmahadevi, considering the volume of Excise work at Nanguneri as more heavy compared with other taluks in this division and also Nanguneri lies at the centre of the Divisions, the Head quarters of Divisional Excise Office has been located at Nanguneri.

All the Staff attached to the office of the Assistant Commissioner (Excise) etc., are being drafted from Tirunelveli District Revenue unit and therefore all service matters relating to the appointment, transfer and other establishment matters are being dealt with by the general

branch of the Collectorate.[39] Revenue derived under excise are given in *Appendix - 4.*

Agriculturists Grievances Day

The farmers and agriculturists assemble on the third Friday of every month before the Collector in the Collector's office in Tirunelveli. A number of representatives of various farmers' associations participate in this meeting and submit petitions seeking redressal for irrigation disputes, repairing of canals, tanks, electricity connections for water pumping motors, proper distribution of fertilisers, cancellation of legal actions, asking for more marketing facilities, and many more various farmers requests.

After taking proper actions in these regards the Collector gives reply to their queries in the next farmers grievances day. A copy stating the various actions taken in this respect is submitted to Government before the 5th of every month.[40] The particulars regarding number of petitions received, number of petitions decided etc. for the year 1992-93 are given in *Appendix - 5.*

APPENDIX - 1

The Statement on issue of pattas in this district

Sl. No	Name of the Taluk	No. of Villages to which Pattas issued	Number of Pattas Issued				
			Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Backward Community	Most Backward Community	Other Persons
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Tenkasi	37	907	- -	33370	7 339	2873
2.	Tirunelveli	72	11811	- -	14452	6646	5526
3.	Palayamkottai	52	6034	- -	8014	3947	2421
4.	Nanguneri	70	11628	- -	21666	5747	9996
5.	Sankarankoil	95	22198	30	20777	18968	12073
6.	Sivagiri	21	8038	- -	3825	5416	9759
7.	Veerakeralaputhur	41	6028	- -	20289	11710	1972
8.	Ambasamudram -I	54	24632	467	10512	7675	4194
9.	Ambasamudram -II	40 + 2	3764	80	2'077	6231	6360
10.	Radhapuram	31	5062	- -	6068	17618	5359

APPENDIX - 2

Details of Collection of Commercial Taxes in the Tirunelveli District under various heads from 1980 - 1991

Year	Collection of Commercial Taxes (Rs. in lakhs)				
	Assesment Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax	*Central Sales Tax*	*Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax*	*Central Sales Tax Act'56*	*Tamil Nadu Entertainment Tax Act'39*
(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*
1980-81	5156	511	435014	36.39	70.69
1981-82	5216	572	475.83	44.50	77.95
1982-83	3227	349	465.69	28.92	53.35
1983-84	3330	345	542.00	29.38	72.49
1984-85	4110	382	646.73	47.01	84.61
1985-86	3660	371	884.50	49.50	100.82
1986-87	3787	476	646.01	46.82	127.50
1987-88	3935	474	832.92	59.37	149.84
1988-89	3879	441	985.94	103.79	175.15
1989-90	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
1990-91	3921	473	1331.76	119.36	230.73
1991-92	3638	412	1595.08	109.59	226.09

Report from the Assistant Commissioner (CT) Tirunelveli dated 4, November 1993.

APPENDIX - 2 (contd.)

Year	Collection of Commercial Taxes (Rupees in lakhs)		
	Tamil Nadu Local Authorities Finance Act (7)	*MS MST* (8)	*Entry Tax* (9)
1980-81	24.25	- -	- -
1981-82	29.46	- -	- -
1982-83	11.12	- -	- -
1983-84	(included with E.T.Act)	- -	- -
1984-85	- -	- -	- -
1985-86	- -	TN 12 H LM	- -
1986-87	- -	1.75	- -
1987-88	- -	1.49	- -
1988-89	- -	1.95	- -
1989-90	- -	7.12	2.40
1990-91	- -	11.35	56.96
1991-92	- -	11.40	44.09

APPENDIX - 3

Revenue derived as Registration fees under various Acts from the years 1985 - 86 to 1994 - 95. (In Rupees)

Description of the Act.	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*	*1988-89*
1. The Indian Registration Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1982)	39,54,990.00	52,52,551.00	62,28,896.00	76,42,451.00
2. The Indian Stamp Act 1961 (Tamil Nadu Amendment)	4,15,28,839.00	4,55,23,433.00	5,19,64,870.00	5,89,38,945.00
3. Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Act 1961	--	--	461.00	424.00
4. Central Chit Funds Act 1982	93,929.00	1,12,388.00	1,26,668.00	1,85,033.00
5. Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975	14,039.00	13,927.00	23,038.00	16,331.00
6. The Hindu Marriage Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1967)	2,056.00	2,314.00	2,838.00	2,738.00
7. The Special Marriage Act 1954	31.00	8.00	--	6.00
8. Indian Partnership Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1965)	10,455.00	12,022.00	9,872.00	9,440.00
9. Tamil Nadu Registration Act Birth and Death Act	6,846.00	5,963.00	6,974.00	8,501.00

APPENDIX - 3 (contd.)

Description of the Act.	*1989-90*	*1990-91*	*1991-92*
1. The Indian Registration Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1982)	87,44,941.00	96,01,047.00	1,24,24,049.00
2. The Indian Stamp Act 1961 (Tamil Nadu Amendment)	7,35,39,429.00	8,38,6140.00	10,57,51,142.00
3. Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Act 1961	566.00	246.00	202.00
4. Central Chit Funds Act 1982	1,87,353.00	2,14,712.00	2,50,595.00
5. Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975	16,782.00	21,450.00	28,339.00
6. The Hindu Marriage Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1967)	3,070.00	2,161.00	1,284.00
7. The Special Marriage Act 1954	3.00	---	---
8. Indian Partnership Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1965)	11,036.00	14,536.00	56,958.00
9. Tamil Nadu Registration Act Birth and Death Act	11097.00	11,246.00	13,128.00

APPENDIX - 3 (contd.)

Description of the Act.	*1992 - 93*	*1993 - 94*	*1994 - 95*
1. The Indian Registration Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1982)	1,32,35,205.00	1,59,25,900.00	2,20,95,508.00
2. The Indian Stamp Act 1961 (Tamil Nadu Amendment)	11,68,81,566.00	15,53,59,134.00	18,13,81,798.00
3. Tamil Nadu Chit Funds Act 1961	50.00	111.00	6.00
4. Central Chit Funds Act 1982	2,57,908.00	3,03,758.00	3,18,633.00
5. Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975	50,793.00	30,954.00	54,191.00
6. The Hindu Marriage Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1967)	1,847.00	4,097.00	13,081.00
7. The Special Marriage Act 1954	18.00	---	3.00
8. Indian Partnership Act (Tamil Nadu Amendment Act 1965)	55,911.00	1,25,885.00	1,16,538.00
9. Tamil Nadu Registration Act Birth and Death Act	16,536.00	132,.76.00	7,838.00

Report from the Deputy Inspector General of Registration, Tirunelveli, dated.5 March 1996.

APPENDIX-4

Details of Excise Revenue derived during 1985-1986 to 1994-1995 (In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Description of the items	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1.	Country Spirit	4502711	83129733	76130	165793	148084	23975778	151480	89629	147765	189331
2.	Country fermented liquor	13354538	8880816	103956	73044	56929	86990	29048	28009	27699	23320
3.	Foreign liquor and spirit	1899710	798201	163364	377285	2151290	9546981	4572754	2365976	28115314	21799101
4.	Commercial Denatured spirits and Medicated wines	9355	1822	4609	3413	8093	391225	5140	4902	6383	16638
5.	Medicinal and Toilet preparations	712	1361	2944	1859	919	7298	4489	2592	4947	3897
6.	Opium Hemp and other drugs	742	1534	3508	5073	6209	12126	7587	7197	8257	7037
7.	Fines and confiscations	21675	34076	31885	21697	715803	23335	11000	608663	3641070	4775161
8.	Service and Service fees.	100	--	--	15225	--	51212	--	81973	59574	75764
9.	Other receipts	5739837	897577	243665	251223	180148	317687	263927	167722	14[illegible]390	126654

APPENDIX - 5

Petitions received and decided for the Year 1992

Sl. No	Date on which the meeting held	Pending Petitions	New Petitions	Total	Petitions Decided	Balance
1.	21.1.92	29	46	69	35	34
2.	20.6.92	34	42	76	32	44
3.	30.3.92	44	37	81	36	45
4.	24.4.92	45	44	89	43	46
5.	29.5.92	46	25	71	27	44
6.	19.6.92	44	14	55	28	30
7.	17.7.92	30	28	38	34	24
8.	21.9.92	24	38	62	44	18
9.	25.9.92	18	31	49	35	14
10.	16.10.92	14	42	56	27	29
11.	**					
12.	18.12.92	29	66	95	89	6

** Due to storm and heavy rain meeting was cancelled.

Petitions received and decided for the Year 1993

Sl. No	Date on which the meeting held	Pending Petitions	New Petitions	Total	Petitions Decided	Balance
1.	22.01.93	6	54	60	47	13
2.	19.02.93	13	47	60	54	6
3.	19.03.93	6	36	42	38	4
4.	16.04.93	4	41	45	44	1
5.	21.05.93	1	59	60	58	2
6.	18.06.93	2	64	60	65	1
7.	16.07.93	1	54	55	54	1
8.	20.08.93	1	66	67	56	11
9.	17.09.93	11	75	86	77	9
10.	21.10.93	9	107	116	109	7
11.	17.11.93	7	84	91	82	9
12.	17.12.93	9	79	88	79	9

Notes and References

1. *K.A. Nilakanta Sastri, The Pandyan Kingdom*, Madras, 1929, p.91.
2. *Guidelines to rulers in filling the treasury* - An article by *Dr. R.Nagasamy*, The Hindu dated 26, February 1978.
3. *V.Rangacharya, Inscription of the Madras Presidency*, Vol. III, Madras, 1919, p.1458.
4. The Hindu, dated 26 February 1978 *op.cit.*,
5. *R. Sathyanatha Aiyer* and *S.Krishnaswami Aiyangar, History of the Nayaks of Madura,* Madras,1924, p.245.
6. A seed - kottai of land was 1.68 acres and a kottai of seed (112 Madras Measures) was considered to be the amount of seed required for sowing the area called as *see Kotta*i H.R.Pate. Tirunelveli District Gazetteer, p.277.
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8. *Ibid.* p.496.
9. Collector Report in the Ryotwari Settlement, Government of Madras,1816.
10. *History of Land Revenue Settlement, op. cit.,* p.496.
11. *Ibid,* p.497.
12. *Ibid,* p.498.
13. *History of Land Revenue Settlement, op.cit* p. 499
14. *Ibid.* p. 500
15. G.O.Ms.No. 2191, Revenue, dt. 12th August 1949
16. G.O.Ms.No. 334, Revenue, dt. 13th February 1954
17. G.O.Ms.No. 505, Revenue, dt. 18th February 1959.
18. G.O.Ms. No. 2787, Ms. series, dated 26 August 1974.
19. *Ibid.*
20. *Ibid.*
21. Report from the Collector, Tirunelveli District dated 13 August 1993.
22. Report from the Collector, Tirunelveli District, dated 15 September 1995.

23. G.O.Ms.No.1177 (CT & RE) dated 3 November 1987.

23A. Report from the Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records, Tirunelveli, dated 9th March 1996.

24. G.O.Ms.No. 633, Labour and Employment, dt. 2 April 1989

25. Report from the Director of Land Reforms, Madras, dated 23 December 1994.

26. Report from the Additional Collector (Development), District Rural Development Agency, Tirunelveli, dated 15 September 1995.

27. G.O.No. 1009 (Rev.) dated 24, July 1986.

28. G.O.No. 705 (Rev.) dated 19 June 1992.

29. Reports dated 10 July 1992, and 31 March 1994 from the Collector of Tirunelveli district.

30. Report from the Commissioner, Survey and Settlement, Madras dated 29 December 1993,

31. G.O.No. 3153, Revenue, dated 27 August 1958 & G.O.No. 3621, Revenue, dated 27 September 1958.

32. G.O.Ms. No. 826, Revenue, dt. 17 March 1989.

33. G.O.Ms. No.916 C.T & R.E., dt. 5 August 1982.

34. Report from the Assistant Commissioner of Tirunelveli dated 29 October 1993.

35. Report from the Deputy Inspector General of Registration, Tirunelveli, dated 13 July 1994.

36. Report from the District Forest Officer, Tirunelveli dated 18 March 1996.

37. Report from the Deputy Commissioner of Income tax, Tirunelveli Range, Tirunelveli, dated 28, February 1996.

38. Reports from the Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise Tirunelveli division, dated 6 March, 1996 and 25 November, 1997, and the article in Dinakaran, Tirunelveli, dated 24 February, 1996.

39. Report from the Assistant Commissioner, Excise, Tirunelveli District, Tirunelveli, dated 4, March 1996.

40. Inspection Review 1992-93, Tirunelveli District, pp.71 to 72.

CHAPTER - 11

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

As elsewhere, in India also, the act of crime did exist from time immemorial, when society was simple, so was crime which was in the form of mostly, petty thefts. But, as society became more complex and man's needs increased, crime too increased proportionately. Prior to the advent of the British, India was ruled first by the Hindu Rulers and later by the Muslims. During the Hindu regime, no original attempt was known to have been made to analyse crimes or the etiology of crime. Crimes were just dealt with as and when they occurred in the best way possible. As for punishments, they tended to be very crude and at times even barbaric, but the trial was speedy. Thugs were publicly hanged and special gibbets were constructed for this purpose. A feature of those days was the absence of prison system perse or prison administration.

Justice in Hindu India was largely a matter of local concern. Minor disputes were settled by one or other of the Corporations to which the disputants belonged. There were no distinction between the civil and criminal offences. Justice was administered by the King or his representatives who either interpreted the law by themselves or consulted the pandits when some interpretation was needed. In course of time, the practice of consulting the Pandits was given up, because their interpretation of laws became obsolete. The Judges were, therefore, intended to follow the principle of customary laws.

During the Muslim Regime also, no evidence is available as to the method of classifying crime or for analysing its causes. Punishments were, however, generally harsh and barbaric. After the advent of the British, the Hindu Criminal Law had practically disappeared in India. In the then Madras Presidency, there was hardly any law or order. The disintegration of the Vijayanagar Empire was followed by the establishment of Bahmini Kingdom. Emperor Aurangazeb's Expedition on Deccon had became a prey to the Maratha incursions which left behind a tale of anarchy. The political power at that time in the South were the Nizam of Hyderabad, Navab of Arcot and the Poligars. The Nizam as the Subedar of the Deccan, paid allegiance to the Moghal Emperor and was the political head of Deccan. The Navab of Arcot paid allegiance to the Nizam and the Poligars owed allegiance to the Navab of Arcot. Deliction of crime and apprehension of criminals was in the hands of the Kavalgars or Village Watchman. The Kavalgar System had speedily deteriorated and they instead of maintaining Law and Order they had started preying upon the ignorant and innocent masses in due course. While this was the general condition, the administration of criminal justice was equally unsatisfactory. The British struggled to maintain Law and Order and meted out Justice according to their standards, without

antagonising the Indians, their customs, habits and religion. They had naturally to rely on individual interpretations of the law in the light of their own conditions and times. Naturally the true law was lost sight of.

Torture was a punishment in the pre-British days. Eventhough, it was not adopted as a punishment by the British, it was widely prevalent as an instrument for extorting confessions in criminal cases. All efforts were made to curb this practice but everything ended in vain. In 1851, Torture Commission Report was published, based on its findings, torture was completly abolished and measures were introduced for improving methods of criminal detection without reporting to or relying upon the confessions obtained through torture. Branding another kind of punishment, which was adopted by the British too was prevalent in the pre-British Period.

The police system in Tirunelveli district was known as Kudi Kaval or Sthalakaval, the origin of which may be traced to very ancient times. Perhaps, it existed from the time of the formation of the village community itself. Early inscriptions in the district also refer to the existence of the Kaval System but named it as Padi Kaval or Ur Kaval. The Watchman under this system were known as Kaval karan or Padi kappar. This system was simple and effective for protecting the lives and property of the village inhabitants from the hostility of neighbours. The office of the Kavalgar was generally hereditary. The Kavalgars were given common village lands on favourable tenure for their livelihood. Sometimes, their remuneration was supplemented with the proceeds of a special cess known as Padi Kaval Cooli. This Kaval system continued till the middle of the 16th century. The introduction of the Poligar System in the district by about 1560 AD by Viswanatha Nayak of Madura, the Governor of the Vijayanagar King, gave a severe blow to the innocent and peaceful institution of Kudi Kaval from which it never subsequently recovered. The Poligars introduced a new system in the early years of the 18th century, which was known as Desa Kaval. The Desa Kaval was maintained by the levy of fees from the inhabitants of villages. Armed Peons were employed by the Poligars in collecting this fee. The high roads, the jungles, tracts of uninhabitated country, the district boarders in all places, gangs of marauders were found and were dealt by the special constabulary institutions by the Poligars. Like so many institutions of its kind, the Desa Kaval system too soon lost its good features and developed its worst. The power of the Poligars did not stop with Desa Kaval. They had seized a large extent of government lands, also usurped the power of appointing and controlling even the State Kavalgars and received fees from them. Besides, they received other extractions like hunting batta, fees on marriage parties and numerous other fees.

By the Treaty of 1792, the Poligars came under the authority of the English East India Company. Finally, in 1799, the Great Poligar Rebellion

took place, which was subsequently suppressed by the East India Company. In 1801, the whole district was placed under the control of the East India Company and the system of Desa Kaval was immediately abolished by a Proclamation. The Poligars were disarmed and were prohibited to exercise any police duties and from collecting fee from the villages. In 1802, police force was created by the Madras Regulation XXXV of 1802. By this Regulation, a number of Peons at the rate of one Peon for ten villages were appointed under the control of Tanadars. The Collector was vested with the powers of a Magistrate and Superintendent of Police. The Tahsildars were given the authority to hear all criminal complaints in the first instance. In 1806, when a Zillah Court was established in the district the powers of the Collector were transferred to the Zillah Judge. All Criminal complaints were referred to him, while the police cases were referred to the newly appointed police officers called the Daroghas, who replaced the Tahsildars. These police officers were under the control of the Zillah Judge. In 1816, the Zillah Court in the district was abolished and the Collector was once again vested with the Magistrial powers and had control over the police. Daroghas were abolished and the Tahsildars were entrusted with the police powers. They became the heads of police and controlled the subordinate police in the districts.

In 1830, attempts to reconstitute the police system were made. F.Hall, the Joint Magistrate of Tirunelveli suggested the resumption of Kaval Fee and the establishment of a competent Village Police on fixed monthly salary out of the proceeds of the fees. Though approved by the Board of Revenue, these suggestions were disapproved by the Government of India. But in 1859, as in other districts a new police system was introduced in the district. Under this system, a separate police department headed by an Inspector-General of Police was established for the whole State. The Inspector -General was assisted by a few Deputy Inspector-Generals who were in control of the police in groups of districts and District Superintendent of Police, each in charge of a District. The District Superintendents of Police were controlled by the District Magistrates except in matters of discipline which was entrusted to the Inspector-General of Police. Each Superintendent of Police in turn, was assisted by a police team which included Inspectors, Constables and Village Police Officers.

The police did not encounter any major upheaval in the early years of the nineteenth century. Moreover, the police organisation in the district as well as in the Presidency was also haphazard. A Police Committee was appointed in 1804 to suggest ways and means for its improvement of the Madras Regulation XI of 1816 gave a definite shape to the police administrative system throughout the Presidency. Under this Act, the police was made inseparable from the Revenue Department. In districts, it was put under the superintendence of Collectors and the Magistrates who

were, however,subjected to the scrutiny of the Courts of Circuit and Sadar Courts.[1] The controlling staff was at first almost entirely European.

In 1862, the new system was introduced in the District and the first District Superintendant of Police was appointed at Palayamkottai. He was assisted by two Assistant Superintendents, one at Thoothukkudi and the other at Courtallam. There was a Deputy Superintendent of Police at the headquarters who acted as the Personal Assistant to the Superintendent. The District was divided into seven circles, viz., Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Sankarankoil, Kovilpatti, Thoothukkudi, Srivaikundam, and Nanguneri, each under the charge of an Inspector of Police. Sub-Inspectors of Police were put in-charge of the local police stations. There were about 1300 Constables in the District attached to various police stations.

Besides the regular police force, there were also special force existing in the undivided Tirunelveli district from 1908 at places like Palayamkottai and Thoothukkudi. The personnel of the reserve police were mostly recruited from Mappillahs and Hindu Malayalis of the West Coast who had exceptionally high standards of physique.

There were some important changes regarding the recruitment of the police force since 1880. Till 1893, the police officers were appointed by nomination but since 1893, recruitments were by competition in England and India and by promotion of officers already in the public service. On the recommendation of the Police Commission in 1902, Provincial Service of the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police was created as also a grade of Sub-Inspector. The full employment of Sub-Inspectors, who were put in-charge of the stations replacing the Head Constables was reached by 1910. Other important changes introduced on the recommendation of the Police Commission of 1902 were (i) the re-organisation of the Criminal Investigation Department for the purpose of collecting and distributing information regarding organised crimes and for assisting in the investigation of difficult or complicated cases. (ii) the reduction of police stations (iii) the establishment of Central Training Schools for Constables in the place of District Schools.[2] Also for the purpose of organisation, the Presidency was divided into 3 Ranges each under the supervision of a Deputy Inspector-General and consisting of certain number of Districts. It was the area, placed under the general administrative control of a District Collector and the Magistrate. The then Tirunelveli was formed part of Southern Range. Each district was divided into police divisions, and was in charge of an Inspector and in the case of about half the number of each division corresponded with the local jurisdiction of a Sub-Magistrate. In most of the Districts, the Superintendent was assisted by a Gazetted Officer called the Assistant Superintendent.[3]

Since 1860, the most important crime in the district were decoity, robbery and house-breaking. The Maravars, the Pallars, the Idaiyars and

the Oddars were the most notorious criminal tribes in the district. For the period between 1902 and 1911, this district had the blackest record in the whole of the State. During this period, burglaries averaged nearly 400 in a year and 90 robberies were recorded. In respect of murders, the annual average was 35. Decoities were common in the district, especially in the taluks of Ambasamudram, while the robberies and burglaries were very common in the taluks of Ambasamudram and Tirunelveli.

Poverty was the root cause of the majority of crimes, especially in agricultural tracts, in many instances want of living and fear of starvation made people resort to crime. Climate was another important factor in the incidence of crime. Crime against property was usually more ripe in the hot weather than in other seasons. Because in summer, there might not have been any agricultural activities at all. Lack of legitimate occupations, bad character were no longer diverted from civil propensities. Religion, which was considered as a factor in restricting criminality, was another important cause of crime.

The police system in the first half of the 19th century was very defective. It consisted of illiterate, inefficient and corrupt persons. It was only after the introduction of the new police system in 1859-1860 that the system was improved. The police at that time were expected to perform all types of duties. There was no clear cut definition of their duties and the responsibilities were generally fixed on them.

The erstwhile Tirunelveli district police was formed prior to Independence covering a vast agricultural, coastal and industrial areas under one Superintendent of Police. The unbifurcated district comprised of 7 sub-divisions, 31 circles and 88 police stations. The prohibition and Transport Regulations were under the control of the Superintendent of Police., Tirunelveli with his pre-Independence sanctioned strength of police. It was very difficult for the Superintendent to administer law and order in the district efficiently. Therefore, from the point of view of operational efficiency and the large increase in population and crimes, the government decided to bifurcate the district into two, viz., Tirunelveli-Kattabomman and Chidambaranar Districts.[4] Subsequently, the district was bifurcated into two and each district has been placed under the control of a Superintendent of Police.

The area of the district is 6838 sq.kilometre and the population is 24,92,283, as per the 1991 Census. The district has a 100 kilometre length of coastal area which covers about 50 villages. Many educational institutions, a University, important pilgrimage and tourist centres and industrial centres are located in the district. Frequently law and order problems arise in the district due to various reasons, particularly problems often crept in the district due to students, agragian and political demonstrations, and industrial unrest. Moreover, communal and group

clashes occur frequently because of the ill-feelings or professional enmity which exist among various communities. Also, the competition for survival is keen. The joint family system has nearly disappeared. Traditional values and parental care on children are declining steadily. Consequently incidence of crime, breaches of public peace, traffic problems, drug abuses, etc. require the attention of the police.

Incidence of Crime in the District

During the first decade of the century, decoity or gang robbery was a crime of very frequent occurrence in all parts of the district. These gang robbers were wandering criminal gangs, consisting of males, females, and children. In many of those gangs, the most actual and dangerous members were never brought on the books at all. They remained at a distance from the gang, visit only by stealth and committed most of the crimes.[5] These hereditary robber castes constituted the aristocracy of depredational crime. Every gang was more or less regulated by the gang leader. In several cases, strong special parties of police proved totally unable to hurt them down. There seemed, in deed, to be a net work of organised plunder, spread over the whole face of the country. They had a secret dialect and secret signs. They swore oaths of fidelity and secrecy.[6] There were many who were driven to it in hard famine times, who took it when agriculture was precarious and provisions were scarce- the relatives or connections perhaps of members of the robber castes themselves who were easily persuaded in such seasons to adopt a service which could not fail, so long as there was any property to be plundered.[7]

In robberies a new form of house breaking was started by the *Koravas* in the district in early twentieth century, which was easy of execution and difficult of detection. They marked down a residence of a women whose jewels were worth stealing, and lurk outside the house before dawn. Then, when the women comes out, snatch her ear-rings and other ornaments and were gone before an alarm could be raised. Like robbery, cattle theft was common in Tirunelveli, but this crime was generally not reported. The Thuppukuli System was in full force. The *Kallans* had rather elaborate arrangements for dividing the fees paid as *Thuppucooli*. The men *Kavalgar* got half the amount paid. This was the *Thuppucooli proper*. The hired cattle lifters got Rs.2/- to Rs. 5/- for their trouble. This was called *Mullucooli* or Thorn payment, because it compensated for the thorns which ran into their feet when they took the cattle across the country at night. The labourers of a stolen cattle got a *Kattu cooli* or Tying up Payment of one rupee per head of cattle. If pursuit was anticipated, the cattles were moved several times by stages or 10 or 15 miles and each labourer was paid. Lastly, there was a *Kulu cooli* which was the share paid to the Village *Kavalgar* for his trouble in acting as agent to extort the blackmail. This was ordinarily a quarter of the total amount paid. This practice was not confined to one particular class but was practised by all castes.[8]

Police had identified certain castes as criminals, and maintained a Criminal Tribes Record.[9] Munneerpallam, Suttamalle, Manur, Sidaparppanallur, Sivilaperi, Murappanad, Seidunganallur, Sankarankoil, Sinnakoilangulam, Karivalamvandanallur, Panavadali, Ayyapuram, Sivagiri, Sendamaram, Tenkasi, Courtallam, Kadayanallur, Uthumalai, Alangulam, Veerakeralanpudur, Shermadevi, Viravanallur, Kadayam, Nanguneri, Poolam, Valliyoor, Panagudi, Radhapuram, Thisayanvilai, Vijayanagaram, Kalakad and Tirukurunkudi were considered by the police as problamatic villages. About 190 Constables were provided special training in the district to deal with those criminals who live in the villages mentioned above. Reclamation measures for those criminal tribes were also provided by the police.[10] Temporary out-posts, as well as temporary additional police staff were employed to curb burglary, robbery and road offences in the district. Road offences were most common in the district on the roads from Melapalayam to Nanguneri and from Palayamkottai to Srivaikundam. Criminals from a particular community took advantage of the poorly staffed police out posts, in Sivanthipatti, Sivalaperi and Thalayuthu, indulged in nafarious activities in those days.[11] Disputes over the enjoyment of lands between Melappannai and Keelappannai, transport of illicit distilled arrack towards Tirunelveli town also affected the peace and tranquility of the district in later days. Many complicated cases were reported to the police which deserved personal attention of the police officials.[12]

The Village Vigilance Committees and Civic Guards were also assisted the police in tracing out the Criminals. The Village Vigilance Committees were reorganised in 1941 and inefficient members of those Committees were weeded out. The cattle lifters, bad characters and other offenders who commit crimes were identified by these Committees and were punished. In Tirunelveli, during 1941, 521 Village Vigilance Committees were functioning, which helped the police in identifying property offences, cattle thefts, property thefts and bad characters. The civic guards assisted the police in the festival and shandy bandobusts and night patrol work and in the detection of crime. The following table shows the cases of *grave crimes* reported during 1935 to 1941 in Tirunelveli district.

Sl. no.	*Varieties of Crime*	*1900*	*1935 to 1939* (Quinquennial Average)	*1940*	*1941*
1.	Murder	347	82	132	109
2.	Decoity	350	12	10	15
3.	Robbery	292	113	168	131
4.	House Breaking	282	217	418	399

5.	Theft	-	428	609	671
6.	Cattle Thefts	-	117	220	159

The Village Officers and Talayaris (Village Watchmen) also co-operated with the police in the prevention, detection and reporting of crimes. They were also rewarded for their good work. The instances of misconduct and neglect of duty among them were brought to the notice of their superior officers and were given punishments.[13]

For better control over crime and criminals and for efficient control over the law and order, the bifurcation of Tirunelveli district was felt essential in the early 1950's. In 1954, proposals were sent to government for the bifurcation of the district. After that date, the enforcement of prohibition work was transferred to the police and the prohibition department with its staff was merged with the police department with effect from 1st November 1955, following that, the re-organisation of the State took effect on 1 November 1956, and in consequence of the re-organisation, the Sengottai taluk of the former Travancore-Cochin State was annexed to this district and Sengottai police station with its seven out posts was taken over. Cases reported here were many complicated and deserve personal attention of the police officials. There was also agragrian and mill workers trouble. It was indeed not possible for one Superintendent of Police to do justice to Crime and Law and Order work in this district.

Organisation Set up of the Police Department

The Police Department at the State level is headed by the Director-General of Police who is responsible for police recruitment, training, mobility, updating of arms and communication systems, general administration, financial control, career, planning, welfare of policemen; intelligence, vigiliance, public relations, inter state liaison, interaction with central police organisation and State Government. The Director-General of Police is assisted by several Inspectors-General of Police, each of them is in charge of 1) Law and Order; 2) Intelligence; 3) Crime; 4) Forest Cell/ CID; 5) Enforcement; 6) Armed Police and Training and 7) Home-Guards.

At the Regions, the Director-General is assisted by a junior level officer, i.e. the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, who has 2 to 4 districts under his control, but has no separate body of policemen under him. He has only a small Range Office and a Camp Assistant with a limited number of ministerial staff. His main responsibility is inspection and supervision of the work of the Superintendents of Police in his Range. He inspects District Police Office, District Armed Reserve District Special Units, office of the Sub-Divisional Officers, Circle Inspectors and selected Police Stations. He also monitors grave crime investigations, disposals and deals with punishment rolls.

The hub of the wheel of police force at the district level is the Superintendent of Police. He is in-charge of the district with District Police Office containing ministeral staff to assit him. In brief, he ensures that all the duties relating to Sub-Divisional Offices are carried out. In addition, he is in-charge of recruitment and training, discipline and deployment of Armed Reserve. Under his control, 1) the District Crimes Records Bureau 2) Special Branch (collection of intelligence reports) 3) District Crime Branch (for investigation of important cases) 4) Single Digit Finger Print Bureau 5) Photography Section 6) Wireless/ Telecommunication 7) Protection of Civil Rights Cell and 8) Anti-Dowry Cell function.

The next lower level officer is the Sub-Divisional Officer in the cadre of I.P.S. In most cases the Additional Superintendent of Police or a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The senior supervisory level commences from the Sub-Divisional Officer, whose territorial jurisdiction is 2/3 taluks and usually co-terminous with Revenue Divisional Office who are the First Class Magistrates. The Sub-Divisional Officer has supervisory control over the inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Police Constables who are in close contact with the public. What has been emphasised in the case of duties of Circle Inspectors would apply to the Sub-Divisional Officer vis-a-vis his Subordinates. He maintains good liaison with the Magistrates both Executive and Judiciary and with appropriate level of other government agencies and department. He maintains good relations with the members of the public in his jurisdiction, but not get identified with any person or section of the community. He systematically inspects police stations also make surprise visits to ensure his men are on alert and are performing their duties as they ought to do. He takes personal interest in serious major crimes right upto prosecution. He reviews acquittals identify defects in investigation/prosecution, decides of serious crimes and if there is any case for an appeal. He exercises with discretion the administrative and financial powers delegated to him.

The next lower level unit is the police station with an Inspector/ Sub-Inspectors. Head Constables and Police Constables are there to assist the Inspector. The lowest level unit in the police department is the out-posts manned by one Head Constable and four to six Police Constables are attached to a police station. They are empowered to receive complaints, make entries in the general diary and forward them to the police stations for further action.

In the districts, at present a Circle Inspector of Police, supervises the work of not only the Station House Officer of Municipal Town Headquarter or Circle Headquarter Police Stations (Sub-Inspectors) but also supervises a few other Station House Officers in-charge of outlying police stations, since these police stations have also to enforce social legislations like Prohibition Act, civil supplies frauds, forest offences, etc.

District Police Office, Tirunelveli

Generally, the officers in the police department, not lower than the rank of Superintendent of Police are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission, while the next cadre officers, i.e., the Deputy Superintendent of Police are recruited by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. The lower level officers, such as, Sub-Inspectors and Constables are recruited through a special body, viz., Tamil Nadu Uniform Services Recruitment Board, constituted for the purpose. Persons eligible are recruited by the Superintendent of Police after testing their mental as well as physical efficiency and aptitude for police work, they are trained at the Police Recruit School, Coimbatore for a period of nine months after the completion of the training, they are sent to District Armed Reserve.

The Strength of Police Force

As it stood in March 1996, the strength of the police force and special units including the Armed Reserve in the district is one Superintendent of Police, 11 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 56 Inspectors, 131 Sub-Inspectors, 295 Head Constables, 1133 Grade-I Constables and 717 Grade-II Constables.

The district has been divided into eight Sub-Divisions each under the control of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. Each Sub-Division has five or more police stations. The Sub-Divisions are located at Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Nanguneri, Valliyoor, Ambasamudram, Alankulam, Tenkasi and Sankarankoil.

There are also 13 Circles which are headed by the Inspectors of Police. The Circles are:

1.	Alankulam	-	Veerakeralampudur
2.	Gangaikondan	-	Sivalaperi
3.	Manur	-	Devarkulam
4.	Nanguneri	-	Moolakaraipatti
5.	Tenkarayankudi	-	Eruvadi
6.	Panagudi	-	Palavur
7.	Sankarankoil	-	Panavadalichatram
8.	Kadayam	-	Alwarkurichy
9.	Kallidaikurichi	-	Veeravanallur
10.	Cheranmadevi	-	Pattamadai
11.	Sengottai	-	Puliyarai
12.	Ayikudi	-	Achampudur
13.	Surandai	-	Chendamaram - Uthumalai

The number of police stations and the strength of police Constables, Grade-I and Grade-II, in each station as on 31 March 1996 are furnished below:-

Strength Position of Police Constables

Name of the Station	*Sanctioned Strength*	*Actual Strength*	*Sanctioned Strength Grade-I*	*Actual Strength Grade-II*
Tirunelveli Town	31	32	9	8
Pettai	20	19	5	4
Suthamalli	12	11	2	2
Tirunelveli Junction	17	19	11	7
Thatchanallur	11	12	3	1
Thalaiyuthu	10	11	6	2
Gangaikondan	12	12	1	5
Seevalaperi	5	10	14	10
Manur	11	10	4	5
Thevarkulam	11	9	3	3
CCB-I	20	18	0	5
Town Traffic	14	14	18	17
Junction Traffic	4	3	10	10
Palayamkottai	32	31	11	7
Tirunelveli Taluk	19	15	5	4
Perumalpuram	11	12	3	4
Melapalayam	17	14	8	6
Munneerpallam	17	15	3	2
CCB-II	16	14	0	3
Palayamkottai	9	7	8	7
Traffic Control Room	19	25	8	7
Moolakaraipatti	12	10	0	1
Nanguneri	29	23	14	10
Vijayanarayanam	13	12	0	2
Eruvadi	12	12	5	4
Kalakad	20	122	5	5
Thirukarangudi	14	18	0	0
Valliyoor	12	14	6	6

Panagudi	12	15	1	1
Palavoor	14	16	0	0
Thisayanvilai	19	18	0	2
Radhapuram	12	12	3	3
Ovari	18	13	1	0
Koodankulam	8	10	0	2
Valliyoor Traffic	4	4	4	1
Alangulam	14	15	1	3
V.K. Pudur	11	13	3	3
Surandai	12	15	1	3
Sendamaram	14	13	1	3
Uthumalai	9	9	5	6
Pavoorchatram	8	11	3	7
Pappagudi	9	10	7	5
Ambasamudram	28	27	4	4
V.K. Puram	30	24	12	11
Kadayam	11	11	6	
Alwarkurichi	15	13	3	2
Kallidaikurichi	26	24	7	6
Veeravanallur	11	11	4	3
Cheranmahadevi	17	13	3	3
Pathamadai	13	10	0	1
Mukkudal	9	9	8	4
Tenkasi	21	26	7	7
Courtallam	18	21	2	2
Sengottai	17	19	4	3
Puliyarai	13	14	1	1
Ayikudi	20	20	2	2
Achampudur	15	17	2	2
Kadayanallur	22	22	1	1
Tenkasi Traffic	8	9	5	5
Sankarankoil	28	28	11	8
Panavadalichatram	17	20	5	4
K.V. Nallur	11	13	3	5
Thiruvenkadam	10	10	2	4

Puliangudi	13	19	1	4
Vasudevanallur	18	18	0	1
Sivagiri	14	16	6	7
Sankarankoil Traffic	6	6	0	0
PCR	3	3	0	0
DCRB	7	7	0	2
Special Branch	1	1	0	0
DCB	2	2	0	0
Dog Squad	0	0	4	4
Computer Wing	0	0	0	0
Highway Patrol	0	0	24	24
Check Post	0	0	0	8
Men on OD	0	0	0	1
	0	0	0	2
Total	1024	1030	319	317

CCB -Central Crime Branch, PCR- Protection of Civil Rights, DCRB- District Crime Records Bureau and DCB -District Crime Branch.

List of Police Stations in the District as on 31st March1996

Tirunelveli Sub-Divsion

1. T1 Tirunelveli Town.
2. T2 Pettai
3. T3 Suthamalai
4. T4 Junction
5. T5 Thatchanallur
6. T6 Thalaiyuthu
7. T7 Gangaikondan
8. T8 Seevalaperi
9. T9 Manur
10. T10 Thevarkulam

Palayamkottai Sub - Division

11. P1 Palayamkottai
12. P2 Taluk office

13.	P3	Perumalpuram
14.	P4	Melapalayam
15.	P5	Muneerpallam
16.	AWP	All Women Ps.

Nanguneri Sub - Divisions

17.	N1	Nanguneri
18.	N2	Moolakaraipatti
19.	N3	Vijayanarayanam
20.	N4	Eruvadi
21.	N5	Kalakad
22.	N6	Thirukarungudi

Valliyoor Sub-Division

23.	V1	Valliyoor
24.	V2	Panagudi
25.	V3	Palavoor
26.	V4	Thisayanvilai
27.	V5	Radhapuram
28.	V6	Ovari
29.	V7	Koodankulam

Ambasamudram Sub-division

30.	E1	Ambasamudram
31.	E2	Vikramasinga Puram
32.	E3	Kadayam
33.	E4	Alwarkurichi
34.	E5	Kallidaikurichi
35.		Manjolai
36.	E6	Veeravanallur
37.	E7	Cheranmahadevi
38.	E8	Pathamadai
39.	E9	Mukkudal

Alankulam Sub-Division

40.	H1	Alangulam
41.	H2	Veerakeralam pudur
42.	H3	Surandai
43.	H4	Sendamaram
44.	H5	Uthumalai
45.	H6	Pavoorchatram
46.	H7	Pappakudi

Tenkasi Sub-Division

47.	F1	Tenkasi
48.	F2	Courtallam
49.	F3	Sengottai
50.	F4	Puliyarai
51.	F5	Ayigudi
52.	F6	Achenpudur
53.	F7	Kadayanallur
54.	P Tenkasi Women Ps.	

Sankarankoil Sub-division

55.	S1	Sankarankoil
56.	S2	Panvadalichatram
57.	S3	Karivalam Vandha Nallur
58.	S4	Thiruvenkadam
59.	S5	Puliangudi
60.	S6	Vasudevanallur
61.	S7	Sivagiri

SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS

District Crime Records Bureau

The District Crime Records Bureau, formely known as District Intelligence Bureau, is functioning at the District Headquarters with a Deputy Superintendent of Police, an Inspector, five Head Constables, five grade-I Police Constables, two Police Constables and one Assistant. The unit is

under the direct control of the Superintendent of police and its prime duty is the collection, recording and dissemination of information regarding the important property crimes and criminals. Important graves crimes like murder for gain, dacoity, robbery, burglary and thefts are detected with the assistance of this unit relating to crimes and criminals. It submits periodical reports, reply to the Lok Sabha and Assembly questions and budget sessions to the chief office as well as government.

Prohibition Enforcement Wing

This wing functions as a separate police wing is headed by a Superintendent of Police, (Prohibition), in the district headquarters since 15 October 1991.[14] It has five Sub-Divisional Units at Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Sankarankoil, Valliyoor and Nanguneri, each headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police. This wing enforces the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937 and the rules made thereunder. The Enforcement Sub-Divisional Units are charged with the responsibility of stamping out illicit distillation, transport and sale of arrack and smuggling of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) from neighbouring States in order to check erosion of Excise Revenue due to the State Exchequer. It also checks misuse of rectified spirit and molassas alloted to respective licence holders. A total of 15240 prohibition cases were detected under various heads during 1993 as against 11719 cases in 1992. Forty five bootleggers were detected during the year 1993 as against 29 in the previous year.

Protection of Civil Rights

This unit began its functions since 4th February 1972, with the sanctioned strength of an Inspector, three Sub-Inspectors, three Head Constables, three Constables and one Statistical Insepector.[15] Having jurisdiction over the whole district, it deals with crimes against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Offences committed under this Act, are tried in a special court, constituted for the purpose. The number of cases registered during the years 1992 and 1993 were 34 and 30 respectively.

The District Special Branch

The important work of this branch is collection of intelligence under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police, Tirunelveli and dissemination of the same to the Superintendent of Police and higher authorities for proper maintenance of Law and Order. This branch is maintaining sheets for political suspects, files for industrial establishments, political parties, educational institutions, etc. Enquires on passport applications and job verifications are done by this branch to intercept the undesirable elements. Interceptions of the correspondences of political, communal and labour leaders are being done by this branch. The staff attached to this branch are the Deputy Superintendent of Police, six Sub-

Inspectors, seven Head Constables and two Constables. This branch has been divided into five regular Sub-divisions, each functioning under the control of a Sub-Inspector of Police.

This branch has got 16 hand metal detectors and a door frame metal detector, two letter bomb detectors, one kit for interception including electric kettle, two megaphone, two tape recorders and a video camera.

All Women Police Station

The All Women Police Station at Tirunelveli is the tenth of its kind in Tamil Nadu, has been functioning from 10 October 1993, with the sanctioned strength of a Woman Inspector, a Women Head Constable and 15 Women Constables.[16] The jurisdiction of this station is in whole Tirunelveli district. This station deals with problems of women and crimes against them, including the family disputes and dowry related crimes. It also hear the grievances of the women petitioners and redress their genuine grievances. Since its inception till 1994 March, it had received 899 petitions and disposed off them successfully.

Police Control Room

The Control Room commenced functioning in the district since 21 August 1971.[17] It is staffed with an Inspector, four Sub-Inspectors, nine Head Constables and twenty seven Constables. A direct line telephone and a disc number 100 is available in the control room. In addition, three mobile vans are also attached to it, which go about rounds in shifts and watch the law and order situation. The control room has jurisdiction over Melapalayam, and Palayamkottai municipal areas as well as Tirunelveli municipality. The staff attends to the calls properly received from the public relating to property offences, hurt cases, accident cases, prohibition cases, fire accidents and public nuisances. During 1993, 124 calls were received in which, 3 were murders, 5 hurt cases, 6 property crimes, 3 accidents and others were routine. During 1994, 313 calls were received, of which, 8 relating to murder, 6 hurt cases, 7 property cases, 37 accidents and others miscellaneous.

Armed Reserve Police

The armed reserve Police is functioning in the district with the following staff: Deputy Superindent of Police, assisted by one Reserve Inspector, 14 Reserve Sub-Inspectors, 43 Head Constables, 37 Nayaks, 37 Lance Nayaks and 390 Police Constables. The seven platoons that are formed here including two platoons at Vikramasingapuram. The strength of the Armed Reserve are utilised for seven authorised guards, and 17 unauthorised guards. Escorts to the prisoners, very important persons and bandobust duties are entrusted with the Armed Reserve. This section has weapons including, 303, 410 muskets, pistols, revolvers, SLR and A.K.47.

Maintenance and repairing of the arms, are entrusted with an armoury shop. The Motor Transport Section of this wing takes care of all the vehicles which belong to the police department. The Armed Reserve Personnel are provided with residential quarters. One match factory unit, and a cooperative milk society are functioning at Palayamkottai for the welfare of the women family members of the Armed Reserve Men.

The Single Digit Finger Print Section

The Tamil Nadu Finger Print Bureau was founded on 22 August 1895. The Finger Print Units in the districts are called Single Digit Finger Print Bureau. They are located in every district headquarters. The Single Digit Finger Print Section in Tirunelveli district was started on 1, September 1967 at Palayamkottai, with one Assistant Superintendent, one Finger Print Expert and two Finger Print Searchers.[18] The post of Assistant Superintendent was redesignated as Superintendent in the year 1970. One Finger Print Expert was posted to this bureau, replacing the District Intelligence Bureau Head Constable to attend to finger print currents, since November 1973.[19] The strength of this section at present is one Finger Print Superintendent, three Finger Print Experts, three Finger Print Searchers and an Office Assistant.

The main function of the section is to collect the finger prints of active criminals, potential criminals, dossier criminals and known depredators (K.Ds) for record, to collect the finger print slips of convicted criminals from the police stations as specified in the State and Central Government schedules as offences for records; to visit all scenes of crime immediately in cases, such as house-breaking, house theft, robbery, dacoity, murder for gain, gang offences and other property offences, to prove the identity of the accused person from the bureau records with the help of experts evidence, to assist in apprehending the escaped from prison or from police custody and give evidence about the whereapouts and bad character; to furnish expert opinion on identified chance prints and criminal cases and testifies in courts when so required. This unit is responsible for detecting many cases of property offences every day. The achievements of the bureau is furnished below:

Achievements of the Finger Print Bureau.

	1980	*1981*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*	*1986*
No. of cases under taken (scene of crime visited)	721	644	598	677	564	480	325
No. of cases in which prints were developed	86	125	91	97	119	82	55

No of cases in which prints were identified with inmates	31	42	31	24	31	21	19
No. of cases in which prints were identified with culprits	23	27	27	17	43	33	17
No. of cases detected as the result of identification	51	21	12	4	9	16	--
No of cases in which finger print slips of criminals were recorded during the year	266	381	287	450	677	581	344
No.of finger prints slips of criminals on record at the end of the year	5620	6001	6288	6738	7415	7996	8340
No. of arrest finger prints slip received for comparision	3208	2860	3338	2874	2527	2642	1505
No. of F.P.currents & C.memo scrutinised and sent to FPB Chennai and NCRB and New Delhi	1410	1712	1479	1105	1505	1349	730
No of cases in which photo copies were received from other districts and States for comparision and opinion	323	513	571	578	643	540	520

	1987	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*
No of Cases under Taken (scene of crime visited)	316	271	390	462	431	426	348
No of cases in which prints were developed	68	59	83	139	99	99	129

No of cases in which prints were identified with in mates	23	18	60	33	24	27	25
No of cases in which prints were identified with culprits	17	17	78	24	28	22	32
Total No. of cases detected as the result of identification	30	10	37	26	38	23	113
No of cases in which finger print slips of criminals were recorded during the year	161	357	277	588	442	380	310
Total No.of finger prints slips of criminals on record at the end of the year	8501	8858	9135	9723	10165	10545	10855
No of arrest finger prints slips received for comparision	1808	429	252	588	442	1073	791
No of F.P.currents & C.memo scrutinised and sent to FPB Chennai and NCRB and New Delhi	860	695	582	420	464	634	495
No of cases in which photo copies were received from other districts and States for comparision and opinion	584	536	601	626	431	869	532

Home Guards

The services of the Home Guards are utilised in controlling traffic, to provide security for the very important persons when they visit the district as well as at the time of elections,. This unit has been functioning in the district since 1963 has the strength of one Area Commander, a Divisional Commander and 377 Home Guards. In addition, one Reserve Sub-Inspector and a Constable from the Armed Reserve are posted for this unit to attend administrative duties. The Home Guard Unit of the district has been divided into six Companies, functioning at Palayamkottai,Tirunelveli

Town,Tirunelveli Junction, Vikramasingapuram, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi with the strength of 82, 84 74, 46, 42 and 49 respectively.

Vigilance and Ant-Corruption

Tirunelveli detachment of the Directorate of Vigilance and Ant-Corruption, started its functions from 1 June 1964. This section is headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police who is assisted by two Inspectors, three Head Constables and five Police Constables. Collection of intelligence against corrupt public servants in sensitive departments and sending up of source reports against them for the registration of preliminary enquiries, detailed enquiries and regular cases and expose their corrupt activities to the public and higher ups in their departments. Since inception, till 1993, 22 preliminary enquiries, 32 detailed enquiries and 30 regular cases were identified and convicted by this department.[20]

Communication System

The Police Computer Wing was established during November 1971 in order to store the informations relating to crimes.[21] In order to deal with the law and order problems and incidents of crimes, violation of law, traffic and social disabilities, etc., the communication systems are modernised. The District Police has a dedicated DOT PABX with a few external junction lines, connected to the public telephone net work with sound internal lines. The radio net work includes a micro wave trunk line with a capacity of 60 channels by 6 hill top repeater stations between Madurai and Chennai.

Important Law and Order Problems in the district since 1960

The district did not face, in the recent past, any grave law and order situation, though this district is noted for communal clashes in which Nadars, Thevars, Adi-dravidars, Konars and Muslims played on dominant roles. However, some sensitive areas such as Tenkasi, Kadayanallur and Puliyangudi can be spotted out. Generally, a few days before and after the general elections are the testing period for the police force as they have to maintain law and order situation in the district. The district has a sizeable labour population scattered over various places and concentrated particularly in Vikramasingapuram, Ambasamudram and Tirunelveli. To maintain peace in the industrial complex, where labour problems may creep in and causing law and order problems, one platoon of the District Armed Reserve is placed under the control of Superintendent of Police, Tirunelveli.

Some important law and order problems in the district are narrated below:-

In the year 1963, the Dravida Munnetra Khazhagam was busily engaged in enlisting volunteers to participate in the Anti-Hindi Agitation.

The Anti-Hindi Agitation of students during the month of March and April 1965 was unprecedented in magnitude in this district as it was all over the State of Tamil Nadu. Though at times it became serious, the situation was brought under control by proper intelligence and stern measures.

In September 1970, the police had to resort to firing over an unruly mob of nearly 5000 in front of the Municipal Office at Tenkasi protesting against the enhancment of municipal tax, which caused a death and injuries to 15 persons.

In November 1971, at Karivalam Vandanallur, the police had to open fire over an unruly and violent mob of Adi-Dravidars, which prevented to conduct the post-mortem of a dead body of an accused arrested in a house breaking case, after he committed suicide in the lock up. Eventually in the firing, two persons lost their lives and a few others got injured.

During 1975, a major communal clash between the Muslims and the Naickers occurred in Kadayanallur owing to the dispute over the usage of a pathway. In the clash, property worth of Rs. 5 lakhs, were damaged, 46 persons including five police officials sustained injuries, and cases were registered. In the interest of the public, government had ordered to withdraw the case later.

In response to the call from their State President late Tr. Narayanasamy Naidu, the members of Agriculturists Association had indulged in road picketing on Tirunelveli to Sankarankoil road at Kurukkalankulam Vilakku on 23rd April 1979. Some known and thousands of unknown persons of the surrounding villages gathered on the road with deadly weapons and indulged in violent activities like pelting stones on the police, etc. They assualted a Sub-Inspector of Panavadalichatram police station and murdered him on the spot. Cases were registered against Narayanasamy Naidu and others.

The activities of the Unrecognised Police Association came to the surface in the district early in May 1979, since Nainardass, the President of the Unrecognised Association happened to be the native of Tirunelveli town. According to the instructions of the government[22] steps were taken to form an association for Head-Constables, Grade-II Constables and Constables. But the men in the district were reluctant to heed to the instructions of the superiors. The unrest among the police men took shape on 17 August 1979 and about 2546 police personnel abstained from duties and joined the stir. In the preliminary stage no officer joined hands with the striking police personnel. Later on three Inspectors, with their subordinate officers announced their support for the striking police personnel. The activities of those officers encouraged the striking police personnel especially in their Circles and many were forced to join. The striking police personnel and officers began to indulge in violence and started intimidating the officers

who did not want to join the police stir. They even compelled their colleagues to close down the stations, when cases were registered against them. They indulged in violence, and were dare enough to go to the houses of the officers and threatened the family members in their absence. On 29 October 1979, they violated the prohibitary orders and took procession from Tirunelveli Junction to Palayamkottai. When the procession was intercepted by the Superintendent of Police, Tirunelveli with a minimum force, he was attacked by the striking police personnel. Some of them who escaped arrest, damaged the wind screen of the buses standing at Tirunelveli bus stand and set fire to an erstwhile Kattabomman Transport Corporation bus at Thatchanallur. The police stir took a violent turn particularly in this district, due to the active participation of the Inspectors in the strike. The office bearers of the Unrecognised Association and all those who were concerned in specific violences were dismissed from the force and subsequently reinstated on compassionate grounds by the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The strike called off from 1 November 1979.

In the Meenakshipuram Village, which is about 4 kilometres. from Sengottai, has about 300 Adi Dravidar houses with a population of 1000 and 15 houses belonging to Thevar community. More than 100 Adi Dravidars were educated and some of them are employed in various government departments. The educated Adi Dravidars of that village felt that they were not treated properly by the people of the neighbouring village viz., Ponphozhil,Vavanagaram, Vadakarai where the majority population was Muslims. Under their influence, on 19th February 1988, about 535 Adi Dravidars converted themselves to Islam. By this incident Meenakshipuram attracted the attention of the whole of India.

Consequent to this mass conversion, Hindu Religious Conferences, and processions were held at Meenakshipuram as well as Ponphozhil. important political and religious leaders attended the Conference likewise important Muslim leaders in the State also visited Meenakshipuram and donated clothes, etc. to those who converted to Islam. Though tension prevailed over this area for quite some time in the beginning effective policing brought the situation gradually to normalcy.

Puliyangudi faced a major communal tension on 8th June 1982. About 100 Adi Dravidars from the Puliyangudi came to Kadayanallur in two tractors to attend a public meeting which was organised with a view to convert the Adi Dravidars to Islamic Faith *Samathuva Samudhayathuva Sangam* while passing through Chokkampatti, a Marava Village, the Adi Dravidars shouted slogans against the Maravas. Besides, in the public meeting, provocative speeches were delivered against the Maravas, which resulted in a serious conflagaration. Police station was attacked by the mob twice on 9th and 10th June 1982. Aliyapuram an Adi Dravidar hamlet of Puliyangudi was attacked by the Thevars resulting in the death of six Adi Dravidars. But the communal clashes were brought to control by police.

Consequent on the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi the former Prime Minister of India on 21st May 1991, tension prevailed all over Tamil Nadu, as well as in the district. Vehicular and train services had been suspended. However police pickets and bandobust were arranged. However, with the political motive, the Congress-I and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam sympathisers, damaged the Dravidra Munnetra Kazhagam flags and banners. In retaliation the D.M.K. party members damaged the belongings of the A.I.A.D.M.K. and the Congress. Property worth of Rs. 34 lakhs were damaged. In this connection 310 cases were registered throughout the district, of which 210 cases were charge sheeted, 100 Cases were disposed of according to law.

On 22 May 1991 at Kadayanallur, about 2000 A.I.A.D.M.K. and Congress-I members looted shops, damaged cinema theatres and match factories. When the police took effort to disperse them they pelted stones on Police Constables, in the stone throwing, five Constables were injured, and a police van was damaged. When the warning proved futile two rounds of ball ammunition were fired at the crowd, which caused the death of an AIADMK sympathiser on the spot.

Karathe Selvin Nadar, a self styled Nadar caste leader, with his eleven other associates conspired to do away with a prominent person belonging to Thevar community. In his design they choose one Subbiah Pandian of Keelapattam it was suspected, financed to cause harm to Selvin Nadar. On 26 December 1991 Selvin Nadar along with his associates armed with deadly weapons and country bombs entered the rice shop of Subbiah Pandian at Palayamkottai and butchered him and his relative Nallakannu Thevar. The group also hurled country bombs towards the crowd, which created panic in the busy area. Thus a law and order problem was created. The Palayamkottai Police registered a case under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act 1985. The accused were arrested and produced before the designated Court at Tiruchy on 10th January 1992 and were remanded under TADA Act.

Kurinjankulam Village which comes under the jurisdiction of Tiruvengadam police station limit known for communal disharmony between Naickers and Adi Dravidars, with regard to the installation of Janthariamman idol in a Natham Poramboke land. The inculcated hatred between these two communities reached the peak on 14 March 1992, 29 persons from Naicker community indiscriminately assaulted four Adi-Dravidars with deadly weapons and caused death. To promote communal harmony, a Peace Committee Meeting was arranged by the Collector on 10 November 1992 in which prominent local representatives participated. Following the resolution, the Adi-Dravidars started constructing the Janthariamman temple quickly, which was objected by the Naickers of Kurinjankulam again, the construction work was ultimately stopped. To

solve the problem amicably Peace Committee Meeting was again convened by the Assistant Collector,Tirunelveli in five spells, i.e., twice in June 1993, September and October 1993 and in April 1994. But, no fruitful result was achieved.

The demolition of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh on 6 December 1992 created tension in the Muslim pockets all over the district, particularly in Melapalayam, Pettai, Tirunelveli Town, Thalaiyuthu, Achampudur, Kadayanallur, Eruwadi and Alwarkurichi where they are predominantly larger. In Melapalayam about 1000 muslims gathered with weapons at Zinna Tidal. The agitating Muslims attacked the police station, set ablaze to branch post office, sub-registrar's office, two water tanker lorries, and one fire service vehicle which led to the police firing at Melapalayam in which two Muslims were killed and 11 Policemen sustained injuries.

At Pettai, 500 Muslims violated the prohibitory order 30(2) Police Act, assembled unlawfully with weapons raised slogans against the Government of India for its alleged failure to protect the Babri Masjid. The mob then turned violent and injured six police personnel. Police opened fire, in which two persons from the mob sustained injuries. The assaults on each other by the Muslims and the Hindus lasted upto 10 December 1992, properties worth about Rs. 15 lakh were also damaged. In this regard, 41 Muslims and four Hindus were arrested. In Pettai on 8 December 1992 police had to resort to firing again, in which one Muslim and six police officials sustained injuries. As many as, 74 cases were registered all over the district.

Several property offences and other offence cases were pending against one abscanding interse Known Depridate, Kalyani alias Kalyanasundaram of Brahmadesam of Ambasamudram taluk. A special police party led by an Inspector summoned one Subbiah of Veppilankulam, who had allegedly assisted the said Kalayanasundaram to dispose of the stolen properties. Subbiah accompanied with his relative Kumarasamy Pandian of Melapalayam, appeared before the Inspector on 24 September 1993 and was let off after interrogation. On the same night Subbiah had met suspicious death, which made his friend Kumarasamy Pandian to book a case in Melapalayam police station. The case was referred to Sub-Collector, Tirunelveli for the conduct of enquiry under 145 P.S.O.

Statement of varieties of crimes

Year	*Murder including M.gain*	*Decoity*	*Gang Decoity*	*Robbery*	*Burglary*	*Theft*	*Sexual crimes*	*Piracy*	*Smugg -ling*
1979	109	4	-	62	667	1622	11	-	-
1980	161	3	1	43	602	1628	9	-	-

1981	163	2	-	28	657	1615	10	-	-
1982	173	3	-	37	651	1636	17	-	-
1983	149	5	-	55	735	1690	14	-	-
1984	76	1	-	35	357	921	10	-	-
1985	77	-	-	38	286	848	12	-	-
1986	83	6	-	41	358	848	15	-	-
1987	82	3	-	28	343	739	5	-	-
1988	83	1	1	31	284	1070	14	-	-
1989	84	1	-	29	367	795	13	-	-
1990	88	6	-	18	386	793	11	-	-
1991	100	-	-	27	327	809	10	-	-
1992	119	8	-	25	323	740	16	-	-
1993	89	1	-	24	341	664	2	-	-

Firing Incidents

The crimes of the district are varied in nature. The communal disharmony among the different communities, unrest among the political parties, labourers and students , thefts, intentional destruction of public and private properties, obstructing the vehicular traffic, obstructing the government officials from exercising their duties, unlawful assembly, unlawful group meetings, riots, vagrancy, etc. are some of the reasons which led to serious threats to the public peace and tranquility in the district. In order to restore peace and tranquility among the public, police have to deal with such situation in a serious manner, which might, out of necessity, results in firing.

The number of incidents in which police ordered to fire in the district since 1980 to 1995 and the reasons behind them is narrated below:

To express their ill feelings against the Thever community, the Adi-Dravidars of Puliyangudi pulled down the arch erected by the Viswa Hindu Parishad in connection with the Rath Yathra, damaged petty shops and buses. The mob collected in front of the Puliyangudi police station, pelted stones and aerated bottles against the alleged police action on 9 June 1982, when the situation was unmanageable, the police, after giving due warning fired two rounds in the air. Next day also, the Adi-Dravidars of Puliyangudi indulged in acts of violence, in which three Police Officials and five Constables got injured. As the situation was out of control, four rounds of ball ammunition were fired, in which three persons from Puliyangudi succumed to injuries.

On 15 November 1982, when the police party proceeded to arrest a notorious rowdy Vembu of Thatchur Kudiyiruppu. The said rowdy, assaulted the police party with sickle, to safe guard themselves, the Sub-Inspector opened fire against the accused Vembu, who succumbed to bullet injuries on the way to the hospital.

On hearing the news of the assasination of the former Prime Minister, Sri Rajiv Gandhi on 22 May 1991, the members of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. and Congress party caused damages, looted and set fire to the shops at Kadayanallur. To disperse them, police used mild lathi charge, this provoked the AIADMK men who armed with deadly weapons attacked the police station, police vehicles and police personnel. Since warning turned futile, the Inspector had to open fire, which caused the death of a man from Krishnapuram in front of the police station.

During April 1992, the police resorted to firing on an accused Murugan of Thalavaipuram. In the same year in October 17, at Kottaram, the workers of Madura Mills of Ambasamudram struck work demanding bonus. When the police party and the Tahsildar Ambasamudram went there to pacify them, the workers pelted stones on them and damaged their vehicle. The resultant firing caused injury to three persons including a women. During October 28, 1992, boot leggers Ramachandran and Chidambaram, of Valliyoor were arrested by the Sub-Inspector of Valliyoor. On the same night the relatives of the accused person tried to rescue them. When the police obstructed their operation, they dragged out a police Constable and killed him. To disburse the mob, the sentry Constable fired one round to drive out the bad elements. On 24 January 1993, the police party headed by an Inspector conducted a prohibition raid at Koothan kuzhi in Sandalkadu, found one Antony Kattery and 15 others indulging in illicit distillation of arrack and destroyed it. The above accused surrounded the police party and assualted them with lethal weapons and country bombs. In order to disperse them as well as on self-defence, the Inspector had to open fire.

On another occasion, on 23 August 1993 when the miscreants tried to break upon the Pandian Grama Bank at Brahmmadesam in the Ambasamudram police station limits, the police rushed to the spot in time and averted the bank robbery. When the culprits threw the country bombs on police, as a self-defence the police fired on them. In the firing nobody was hurt, but the culprits escaped.

There was no firing by the police during the year 1994. During 31 May 1995, about 300 Maravar community people of Veppilankulam gathered with the intension of attacking their rival Nadar community people of Vadakkankulam. On their way, they started to attack a cinema house and the situation become uncontrollable. To bring the situation under control, police had to fire five rounds, in which one person was killed.

On 16 August 1995, in front of the Alangulam bus stand, the Nadar community people of Maruthamputhur unlawfully assembled and demanded the arrest of an accused who was involved in triple murder case at Maruthamputhur. The unruly mob after assaulting the police, set fire to four government buses and burnt them. When lathi charge failed to bring the situation under control, firing was ordered by the Tahsildar. Due to shooting, two persons were succumed to bullet injuries.

Due to communal rivalry, on 30 July 1995, about 500 Adi-Dravidars unlawfully assembled with weapons near Ambedkar statue at Sivagiri, damaged government buses and police jeep and attacked the police personnel also. This compelled the police to resort to firing, in which, three persons were injured.

About 2000 Thevars including 300 women formed themselves into an unlawful assembly with weapons, attacked the Adi-Dravidar colony of Keelapuliyoor village on 21 November 1995. The mob pelted stones and threw petrol bombs against the police. Finally firing was opened. Except the injuries to the police personnel and the Tahsildar, no untoward incident was reported due to firing.

Prison Administration

Prisons were not unknown to ancient India. The institution of Manu, Kautilya's Arthasastra and some Sangam works contain references to imprisonment. But all through, it remained a rough and ready method of restraining the movement of offenders rather than a regular institution by itself. It became a system only with the advent of the British in India.[23] In the early years of the 19th century, prisons in the Madras Presidency were managed with a strange combination of humanity and inhumanity. On one hand, prisoners were fed on an extravagent diet or meat, fish and foul, on the other hand, offenders against the prison discipline were punished with as many as 150 stripes with cat-O'nine tails.[24] (A whip usually, having nine knotted lines or cords fastened to a handle used for flogging, so called in allusion to a cat's scratches.) The prisons in the Madras Presidency in the early years of the 19th century could not be managed satisfactorily as many of them were housed in improper buildings. They were housed in buildings like palaces, the space between inner and outer walls of the Fort at Chengalpattu, the Fort at Palayamkottai, etc.

It was the British who first introduced the regulated system of the Prison Administration in India. The prison administrative system began in Madras with the introduction of the Cornwallis System of Judiciary in 1802. The Central Jails, District Jails and Special Jails located in the Presidency were managed by the Superintendents. Their work was supervised by the Inspector-General of Prisons, who was the head of the Jail Department.[25]

Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for periods of one year and upwards and those sentenced to transportation were confined in Central Jails. In 1919, Jails at Vellore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore and the Penitentiary at Madras were ranked as Central jails.[26] Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for periods exceeding one month and less than twelve months were confined in District Jails. The District jails were located at Palayamkottai, Madurai, Cuddalore and Tanjore.

At the beginning of the British Administration, there was no regular District Jail in Tirunelveli district and prisoners were accommodated in the Fort at Palayamkottai. Subsequently, a Jail was built in Tirunelveli. In 1876, another Jail was built in Palayamkottai which could accommodate 437 prisoners. Besides, there was a Sub-Jail at the headquarters of each Sub-Magistrate. The Special Sub-Jail at Tirunelveli was situated within the compound of the Tirunelveli Collectorate. The Superintendent, Central Jail, Palayamkottai was the ex-officio Superintendent of this Jail. The authorised accommodation of this Jail was 125. Prisoners of both sexes sentenced to below one month, under-trial prisoners committed to the Sessions by the Magistrates all over the district and remand prisoners facing trial in the local Courts were committed to this jail. Mostly agricultural classes were admitted in this Jail for confinement, as short term prisoners. The District Jail, Palayamkottai, was converted into Borstal School in 1929. The Borstal School started in 1929 at Palayamkottai was one of its kind in the State. It was a Correctional Institution for adolescents of the age group of 18 to 23.

Till 1958, before the Amendments brought to Children's Act, 1958, adolescents of ages between 16 and 21 were admitted, but after the Amendment, the age group of the committals had been revised to 18 to 23 years. With a view to establish a Central Jail at Palayamkottai in the Borstal School premises, the then Inspector-General of Police submitted proposals to government that effect. The staff of the District Jail, Pudukkottai was, therefore, transferred to Central Jail at Palayamkottai, the Borstal School, Palayamkottai with its entire staff were shifted to Pudukkottai. The actual strength of the Borstal School, Palayamkottai while shifting was 155, which was well below the sanctioned strength of 647, while the jails at Madurai, Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore were over crowded. The Borstal School building at Palayamkottai which was previously the District Jail, Tirunelveli was converted into a Central Jail without any expenditure on buildings. The reason behind this conversion was that the Jails at Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli especially contained many prisoners from Madurai district. It also received convicts from Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kannyakumari districts, in addition to the prisoners remanded by the Courts at Madurai town. Due to over crowding at Madurai, Central Jail, the Superintendent had, but to transfer

prisoners to various other jails. Those prisoners who usually came from places like Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts were put to real hardships as they were confined far away from their native places and were not in a position to see their relatives or advise them on family problems. As a result, there were numerous requests from the prisoners in these Jails for transfer to the Central Jail, Madurai.

With a view to relieve congestion and ensure better administration in more than one Jail in the State, and to fulfil the longfelt need for an additional jail in the southern districts, it was proposed to establish a Central Jail at Palayamkottai in the place, where the Borstal School, was existed. The Borstal School was, therefore, moved to Pudukkottai, in its place, the new Central Jail, Palayamkottai was inaugurated on 1 April 1968.

Central Jail, Palayamkottai:

As per the report on the Administration of the Jails of the Madras Presidency in 1924, the District Jail, Palayamkottai had 392 under trial, 411 civil and 1796 convicts prisoners on its rolls, which includes 56 female convict prisoners.[27]

At present the Palayamkottai, Central Jail is functioning under the control of the superintendent who is assisted by an Additional Superintendent, a Personal Assistant, Jailor, Manager, Welfare Officer, 3 Deputy Jailors, 2 Assistant Jailors, 3 Chief Head Warders, 12 grade-I Warders and 81 grade-II Warders, besides, Doctors, Pharmacists, Ministerial and other Technical Staff. The total area of this Prison is 117.75 acres, with an authorised accommodation of 1132.

In this Prison remand and under trial prisoners, persons who are arrested under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act (TADA) 1985 and Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act **(COFEPOSA)** are retained.

The convicted prisoners are given training in trades like weaving, carpentry, tailoring, paper making and binding.

The craft section attached to this Prison is specialised in plumbing, which trade is imparted to the interested prisoners.

The welfare of the prisoners is the responsibility of the Welfare Officer, who, though constrained to work within the frame work of the Prison Manual, to implement certain welfare measures. The television programmes, and movies on Sundays are the regular recreational facilities. Out-door games like volley ball, badminton, etc., are provided along with the indoor game, carrom board. Besides this, the prisoners are provided with newspapers and periodicals.

The prisoners are being released under the remission system prescribed in the Prison Rules. At the time of release, they are being paid actual bus fare to reach their native places. The unspent amount earned under wage earning scheme and the other money that they possess are paid to them at the time of release.

The life prisoners, who had completed 12 years of sentence are being prematurely released on the occasion of the birth day of the important national leaders as well as that of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, with the objective of their rehabilitation, which responsibility rests with the Probation Officers. During1992,1993 and 1994 the number of life prisoners who got premature release were 66, 65 and 30 respectively. Emergency leave is granted to a Prisoner who is sentenced by a Court in the State of Tamil nadu to imprisonment for a term or imprisonment for life and that his conduct in prison has been satisfactory. Emergency leave is ganted for attending death or serious illness of father, mother, wife, husband, son, daughter, full brother or full sister of the Prisoner. The total period of emergency leave to be granted to a Prisoner by the Superintendent of Prisons or the Inspector General of Prisons as the case may be shall be fifteen days in a year to be spread over four spells, first spell being six days, and the remaining three spells being nine days at a time. Since the leave is a concession granted to the Prisoner, this cannot be claimed as a matter of right. On the recommendation of the Probation Officer, they are released on ordinary parole for 30 days. The powers to order such releases are invested with the Range Deputy Inspector-General of Prisons. The government may also grant parole in genuine cases.

In this prison, there is a regular school with three teachers. In addition to regular schooling, adult education scheme is also in vogue. Prisoners are permitted to proceed their higher education with the government aid. In this prison, a convict after completing his M.A. course is pursuing his M.Ed. course.

A canteen is run to cater to the needs of the inmates who can purchase cigarettes, beedies, cigars, toilet items, biscuits, tea, etc. on the coupon which could be procured on payment. Prisoners are allowed to spend half of their monthly wages for the purchase of articles from the canteen.

A and B Class prisoners are fed as per the menu furnished below:

A Class Prisoners

Morning - Tea, or coffee and tiffin.

Midday - Rice, sambar, pepper water, mutton and buttermilk.

Evening - Rice and sambar

Central Prison, Palayamkottai

Besides, thrice in a week, they are provided with bengal gram sundal and for the rest four days, they are provided with boiled ground nut kernals. Non-vegetarians will get mutton (115 grams per head) for three days in a week. Vegetarians are provided with 30 grams of ghee every day.

B Class Prisoners

Day	*Morning*	*Midday*	*Evening*
Sunday	Rice conjee with onion chutney	Rice, sambar butter milk, porial	Rice, sambar boiled ground nut kernals.
Monday	Rice uppuma with coconut chutney	Tamarind rice with sambar and buttermilk	Rice, sambar, boiled groundnut kernals.
Tuesday	Pongal with coconut chutney	Rice, sambar vegetarian porial	Rice, sambar and buttermilk and buttermilk
Wednesday	Rice conjee with onion chutney	Coconut rice potato porial buttermilk	Rice, sambar boiled groundnut kernals. pepper water
Thursday	Rice uppuma with coconut chutney	Rice, sambar green poriyal and buttermilk	Rice, sambar boiled groundnut kernals.
Friday	Rice conjee with onion	curd rice, sambar chutney	Rice, sambar boiled groundnut kernals.
Saturday	Pongal with coconut chutney	Rice, Sambar vegetarian poriyal and	Rice, Sambar boiled groundnut kernals. buttermilk

A dairy unit which existed earlier, was closed with effect from 13, June 1996.

To look after the sick prisoners, two doctors in the cadre of Aassistant Surgeons will be on duty in the 16 bedded prison hospital. The Doctors are assisted by a Staff Nurse, Pharmacist and two Male Nursing Assistants. One of the heads of departments of the Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli is nominated to act as the Medical Officer of the prison in rotation. The hospital is equipped with one ECG machine which is handled by a trained Male Nursing Assistant. Under the scheme of

modernisation of prison administration, six watch towers, generators, intercoms, floodlight arrangements, walkie-talkie, telex, computer, binaculars, ambulance, STD phone facilities, micro wave telephone facilities are provided in this prison[28].

Since 1972 to 1996, the number of prisoners hanged to death in this prison were, two in 1972, two in 1975 and two in 1992.

The number of persons who got remissions from 1990 to 1994 were 281, 262, 198, 186 and 260 respectively.

The number of persons who were imprisoned and the daily average of prisoners in this jail since 1991 to 1995 is as follows:

Year	*Total number of prisoners*	*Daily average (persons)*
1991	328633	900
1992	344939	945
1993	283730	777
1994	298255	817
1995 (uptoAugust 1995)	234536	977

For the maintenance of this prison, the government had to spent Rs. 86,29,500/- in 1991-92, Rs. 97,08,000/- in 1992-93, Rs. 12,558,100/- in 1993-94 and Rs. 12,159,500/- in 1994-95.

Sub Jails

The Sub-Jails in Tirunelveli district was brought under the control of the Prison Department from Revenue Department with effect from 1 April 1983 and at present 4 Sub-Jails are functioning in the district under the direct control of the Central Prison Palayamkottai, at Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi and Sankarankoil.

Treatment of Adolescents and Juveniles

Borstal School- Palayamkottai

From the point of view of the Criminologists, adolescence is the most critical period in the life of an individual. Many crimes are committed during this period. The U.S.A. was the first country to realise the juvenile-adults should not be confined either with juveniles or adults and they required a special treatment. Impressed by this system Sir. E.Ruggles-Brise, Chairman of the English Prison Commission, established an institution for the juveniles in the little village of Borstal, in 1902. The Madras Presidency was one of the first in India to start a separate institution for the treatment of adolescent offenders. To implement this system in the Presidency, the

District Jail, Tanjore was converted into a Borstal institution in 1909. This jail was known as informally as the "Tanjore District Jail for Adolescence till 1918, and was openly called as Tanjore Borstal Institution in 1919". The Mappillah adolescents who were in this jail were a threat to the prison administration in the Madras Presidency. The government thought that it was inadvisable to send them to ordinary jails where they would be confined with the adult convicts, nor would their short sentences do them any good if they were detained in the Tanjore Borstal. Therefore, the Mappillah adolescents were concentrated in a part of the District Jail at Palayamkottai and put under a modified course of Borstal treatment. Sir Arthur Knapp, who visited the Palayamkottai Jail, found very little progress on Borstal lines and ordered its closure and transfer of inmates to regular jails. But due to timely intervension of the then linspector-General, J.P. Caveron, the order was rescinded and the jail department allowed to continue the modified Borstal course for the Mappillahs. By 1927, the Palayamkottai Jail became a Juvenile Jail, where the inmates received training and treatment very much on Borstal lines. Meanwhile, owing to the enforcement of the Borstal School Act, 1925, throughout the Madras Presidency from 1st March 1927, the number of commitments to the Tanjore Borstal School increased and it became necessary to open a second Borstal in the Presidency. The adolescent enclosure in the District Jail, Palayamkottai, where the Mappillah youths underwent a modified Borstal course, was closed and converted into a Borstal Section in 1928. While offenders from the Telugu speaking northern districts were received at the Palayamkottai Borstal School. The District Jail palayamkottai was converted in to Borstal school in 1929.[29]

Those from the Tamil and Malayalam speaking southern districts were received at the Borstal School, Tanjore. The then Inspector-General reported in 1929, "the Borstal System has now been brought to a high standard of efficiency in this Presidency and is likely to make a marked reduction in the incidence of crime". He felt so proud of those schools that he wrote "the two schools at Tanjore and Palayamkottai have come to be regarded as the foremost of their kind in India......" government showed its eagerness to make them the best of their kind in the country. The reputation of the Palayamkottai School increased so swiftly that the Travancore government wanted to send its boys of Borstal age to Palayamkottai so that they might have the benefit of the highly specialised training of that institution.

In Palayamkottai Prison the unruly Mappillah prisoners took leading part in prison disturbances. They quarelled with the Wardens and Hindu prisoners and declined to submit to the authority of the Warder Guard. Serious disturbances were occurred in June 1925, when a Hindu prisoner was stabbed by a Mappillah adolescent. The principal offenders were

prosecuted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, while others were suitably dealt with by the Superintendent of Jails. The Mappillah adolescents got out of hand in July and created disturbances again in the jail. With the assistance of the Reserve Police, the riots were rounded up and remanded to safe custody without any casualities. The ring leaders 10 in number were whipped and all others who took part in the rioting, numbering about 171 received exemplary punishment under the rules. The fanatical Mappillah was always ready to take part in the fight more especially when he considered that he had grievances to set right and all his co-religionists were always prepared to support him irrespective of right or wrong.

The Borstal System which aims at the reformation and reclamation of the young offender made good headway at Tanjore under the able direction of Mr. Hitchin, the Superintendent. Every effort was made to instil the right spirit into the boys, to improve their physique, to teach them to be truthful, upright and mainly, to inculcate a spirit of industry and liking for congenial labour. A somewhat modified system in these lines was carried at Palayamkottai with the Mappillah adolescents incarcerated there. Unfortunately, the Superintendent selected to put the system into effect, failed to do his duty properly and allowed discipline to get out of hand. Fortunately, however his mismangement was detected, though not sufficiently early to prevent the regrettable disturbance started to put down irregularities and tighten up discipline.

The accommodation available in the Borstal School, Palayamkottai, during 1958 was for 647 inmates. Vocational training was offered to them. The number of adolescents discharged during that year was casuals 16 and habituals 4. The actual strength of the school in 1966 was 155 which was well below the sanctioned strength of 647 while the Jails at Madurai, Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore were over crowded. With a view to relieve congestion and ensure better administration in more than one jail in the State, the then Inspector General of Prisons proposed the government to shift the Borstal School at Tanjore, and also made suggestion to convert the existing Borstal School buildings at Palayamkottai into a Central Jail. The Jails at Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli especially contained many prisoners from Madurai district who wanted to be housed closer to their native places. Those prisoners who usually come from places like Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts were put to great hardships as they were confined far away from their native places and were not in a position to see their relatives or advise them on several family problems. As a result there were many requests from prisoners in those Jails for transfer to the Central Jail Madurai.

Further, the only Borstal School in the State was situated in the Southern most corner of the State and a boy committed to the Borstal

School by a Court at Madras or Coimbatore had to be sent nearly 650 kilometres under escort to Palayamkottai and on release, he had to be provided with a ticket for a long distance to go back home. In order to reduce such expenditure on travel, it was proposed to shift the Borstal School at Palayamkottai to Thanjavur. As a result, the Borstal School was shifted from Palayamkottai to its old premises in Thanjavur on 31 March 1968. The Palayamkottai Borstal School buildings were converted into a Central Jail immediately the next day and thus came an additional jail to the southern districts.

Administration of Justice

Under the British administration, the then existing Judicial Institutions were reorganised. It made a cautious and discrete approach in bringing necessary legal changes for the functioning of courts. The Hindu and Muslim laws were restrained along with social customs and traditions. Gradually, a certain uniformity was sought to be established by deliberate legislation and Judicial precedents. The process was to be necessarily subtle and slow.

Cornwallis system of 1802, entailed a number of regulations. Civil and Criminal Courts were classified and organised in three levels. Sadar and Foujdari were the apex courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction, respectively. Next to them were Provincial and Circuit Courts, which exercised jurisdiction over a group of districts. At the lower level were the Zillah Courts. In 1802, Tirunelveli district was placed under the jurisdiction of Ramnad Zillah Court. The Zillah Judge had a Registrar's Court and some native Commissioner's Courts to assist him in general by dispensing cases of less importance.

Appointment of District Munsifs with jurisdiction over two or three taluks and Village Munsifs who could dispose of petty suits upto Rs. 10/- in value, was made in Tirunelveli district (as in other districts) in pursuance of the recommendations of the Judicial Commission (1816) led by Col. Thomas Munroe.

After the abolition of Zillah Court in 1822, Tirunelveli district was under the jurisdiction of the Zillah Court at Madurai till 1843. But an Auxiliary Court presided by a Civilian Judge (assisted by a Sadar Amin) was functioning at Tirunelveli from 1827. In 1843 Zillah Court was again established at Tirunelveli. A Civil and Sessions Judge, with powers to try appeals from the decrees of the Subordinate Judge, the Sadar Amins and the District Munsifs, were appointed to preside this Court.

Between 1859 and 1861, the Civil Procedure Code and the Penal Code were enacted replacing the Regulations which till then governed the Judicial Administration. The Sadar and Foujadari Adalat were replaced by

the High Court which was invested with Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction over all the Courts in the Madras Presidency. The present set up of the Civil Courts was established in 1873. Under the Act, the District Munsif's Courts was established in the district. The authority of the Zillah Court was extended over the whole district. There was also the erstwhile district had two Subordinate Judges Courts one at Tirunelveli and the other at Thoothukkudi under the jurisdiction of the Zillah Court Tirunelveli. The erstwhile Tirunelveli district also had six Munsifs Courts- two at Tirunelveli and one each at Ambasamudram, Sri Vaikundam, Thoothukkudi and Kovilpatti. In 1913, a temporary Additional District Munsif's Court without original jurisdiction was established at Palayamkottai. The District Munsif's Court, Tirunelveli which was functioning with a specified area of territorial jurisdiction was made permanent as District Munsif's Court, Palayamkottai in or about the year 1918 which was later abolished in the year 1932. The entire area of the jurisdiction exercised by that Court was added on the District Munsif's Court, Tirunelveli. As the work in the latter court was found to be very heavy, there was a redistribution of territorial jurisdiction among the Munsif's Courts in the year 1937. The temporary Additional Munsif's Court which was functioning at Palayamkottai from 1913 with no original jurisdiction was abolished. A District Munsif's Court was established at Tenkasi in 1920.

The Divisional Judge and the Subordinate Judges exercised jurisdiction in all original suits and proceedings till 1916, where the amount did not exceed Rs. 2,500/-. In 1916 the amount was revised upto Rs.3000/- by the Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Act of 1916.

Appeals from the District Courts were tried by the High Court. Appeals over the divisions of the Subordinate Judges and District Munsif's Courts were referred to the District Court, except in cases where the value exceeded Rs. 5000/- in which cases an appeal lay to the High Court. In certain cases the Subordinate Judges exercised the powers of disposing of appeals from the District Munsif's Courts with in their jurisdiction. The District Judge also, exercised the powers of taking up appeals from the District Munsifs to his own Court. With the approval of the High Court, he could refer any appeal from the decrees and orders of the District Munsifs preferred to his Court, to any Subordinate Judge under him.

The Madras Civil Court Act, of 1873 empowered the Subordinate Judges and the District Munsifs with the powers of a Small Cause Court upto Rs. 500/- and Rs. 50/- respectively. In 1914, the District Munsif's jurisdiction was raised to Rs.100/- generally and Rs.200/- in case of a few District Munsifs, recommended by the High Court. In 1942, all the District Munsifs in the district were given Small Cause Powers of the Subordinate Judges were subsequently raised to Rs. 1000/-.

The District Judge exercised special jurisdiction under enactments like the Guardians and Wards Act, the Land Aquisition Act, the Provincial Insolvency Act, the Indian Divorce Act, the Native Converts Marriage Dissolution Act and the Administrative General's Act. The Subordinate Judge also exercised certain jurisdiction under special enactments like the Provincial Insolvency Act, the Guardians and Wards Act, the Indian Succession Act, the Madras Hindu Prevention and Bigamy and Divorce Act and the Land Acquisition Act. The District Munsifs also exercised jurisdiction under the Provincial Insolvency Act and the Indian Succession Act.

Panchayat Courts

Originally Village Munsifs were invested with powers to try civil suits upto the value of Rs. 20/- which was later raised to Rs. 50/-. Village Panchayat Courts were also constituted under Madras Village Courts Act and were empowered to try civil suits upto the value of Rs.100/-. After the passing of Madras Act X of 1950, which came into force on 1st May 1961, every Panchayat Board on its constitution became a Panchayat Court and the elected President and Members of the Panchayats were to function as the President and Members of the Panchayat Court for the Panchayat area. But this provision was actually a dead letter as it was implemented only in respect of a very few Panchayats in this district. After passing of the Madras Act of 1958 which came into force in October 1961, the power to try suit was taken away, so as to presumably allow the Panchayats to concentrate on the welfare of the people and probably to confirm to the cherished ideas of having a judiciary independent of the executive. The Panchayats are the village level executive limbs of the government, established by the Madras Act of 1958.

History of Constitution of Criminal Courts in Tirunelveli District

Administration of Justice by the Criminal Courts in the erstwhile Tirunelveli district now bifurcated into Tirunelveli-Kattabomman and Thoothukkudi districts, albeit bifurcation, they remain as one district in so far as the Criminal Courts are concerned. The Chief Judicial Magistrate Tirunelveli exercises control over all the Criminal Courts in both the districts.

Separation of Judiciary from the Executive was introduced in the erstwhile Tirunelveli district on 1st January 1950. The scheme commenced with the functioning of the following Courts in the district.

District Magistrate, Tirunelveli, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Kovilpatti, and Thoothukkudi, Additional Class I Magistrate, Tirunelveli, Sub-Magistrates, Tirunelveli, Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Sankarankoil, Kovilpatti, Thoothukkudi, Srivaikundam, and Tiruchendur.

The following Courts were subsequently constituted in the years noted against each.

Additional Sub-Magistrate Court, Tirunelveli -1951, District Munsif-cum-I Class Magistrate, Sengottai - 1956, Special I Class Magistrate (CCI) Tirunelveli - 1980, Special I Class Magistrate (PCR), Tirunelveli-1982, Special Magistrate -(Prohibition) Tirunelveli-1982, Judicial II Class Magistrate, Vilathikulam- 1979, Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Valliyoor - 1980, Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Cheranmahadevi - 1988.

Initially the District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrates tried all class offences arising from their respective divisions. They were also hearing appeals arising from conviction and sentences of Sub-Magistrates within their respective jurisdiction. The Additional First Class Magistrate was not given independent jurisdiction, initially, but was assisting the District Magistrates by disposing cases transferred to that Court by the District Magistrate's Court.

In the year 1960, the court was given independent jurisdiction over the areas for trial of first class offences arising from that areas. The Court of District Munsif-cum-First Class Magistrate, Sengottai was formed on the re-organisation of States in the year 1956. It tried first class offences arising from Sengottai taluk which was attached to Tirunelveli. Subsequently, the court was converted into a court of District Munsif-cum-Sub-Divisional Magistrate in the year 1969 with Original and Appellete Jurisdiction over the areas of Sub-Magistrates, Tenkasi and Ambasamudram. Consequently in taking away of the area of Sub-Magistrate, Ambasamudram from the jurisdiction of additional First Class Magistrate, Tirunelveli, the court was given in lieu there of jurisdiction over the area of Additional Sub-Magistrate, Tirunelveli by carving out that area from the jurisdiction of District Magistrate, Tirunelveli.

The Special I Class Magistrate (Cooperative Cases Investigation Wing) Tirunelveli, was constituted for the trial of cases instituted by C.C.I. Wing police coming within the area of the erstwhile Tirunelveli district and Kanniyakumari. The special First Class Magistrate (Protection of Civil Rights) Tirunelveli formed to try cases under P.C.R. Act arising from erstwhile Tirunelveli district. The Special First Class Magistrate (Prohibition), Tirunelveli was established to try exclusively prohibition cases arising out of the entire district. The courts of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Valliyoor with the areas of Judicial Magistrate, Nanguneri and Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ambasamudram were constituted to give relief to the existing I Class Magistrates. The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate also exercised administrative control over the Second Class Magistrates, within their jurisdiction.

The Court of Judicial Second Class Magistrate, Vilathikulam was constituted when Vilathikulam sub-taluk was upgraded as a taluk and the work required the forming of a separate court to try second class offences.

All the Second Class Magistrates were given separate jurisdiction in terms of areas of police stations and the courts tried second and third class offences. The Judicial Second Class Magistrate, Nanguneri, Sankarankoil, Kovilpatti and Tiruchendur held Camp Courts at Radhapuram, Sivagiri, Vilathikulam and Sattankulam respectively, After the installation of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrates, Valliyoor, that Court held Camp Court at Radhapuram. The Judicial Second Class Magistrate, Kovilpatti ceased to held Camp Court at Vilathikulam after a separate court was formed there.

A Temporary Court of Special First Class Magistrate was established in the year 1970 for enquiry and committal of cases of misappropriation of funds of Kadayanallur Weaver's Co-Operative Society which involved huge amount and several accused persons. In the midst of its functioning, the new Criminal Procedure Code (Cr. P.C.) came into force on 1st January 1974, requiring trial of these cases by an additional District Magistrate. Hence abolishing the court, the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate was constituted in the year 1977 and it preceeded with the trial of the said cases. The Court was disbanded on 28 February 1986 on conclusion of trial in all those cases.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Tirunelveli is also dealing with cases under Prevention of Corruption Act arising from the whole district. Besides he presided the Juvenile Court with jurisdiction over Kanniyakumari district also from the year 1961 to 1977. The Chief Judicial Magistrate held Camp Courts at Nagercoil once in a week. In the year 1977, the court ceased to be a Juvenile court as the work was transferred to the respective courts having jurisdiction to try the cases. With the introduction of Criminal Procedure Code 1973 (Act 3 of 1974), appellete powers of District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Magistrates were withdrawn and the power was vested with the Sessions Judge. Thereafter, the District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Magistrates were exercising the powers of a First Class Magistrate only. By the said Act, the District Magistrate was designated as Chief Judicial Magistrate. The others were designated as Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrates, Judicial First Class Magistrates and Judicial Second Class Magistrates as the case may be.

In the year 1988, the posts of Judicial Second Class Magistrates were integrated with that of District Munsif and all the Magistrates including Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrates and Judicial First Class Magistrates were brought into one category. All of them were designated as Judicial Magistrates and empowered to try all offences including first class offences.

Thereupon, reallocation of territorial jurisdiction was made and all Judicial Magistrates except the Judicial Magistrates (CCIW) and Judicial Magistrates (PCR) were given separate jurisdiction to try all offences. The Chief Judicial Magistrate has also been given separate jurisdiction with respect to the trial of first class offences.

Honorary Magistrates

At the beginning there were three Bench Courts, one each at Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram and Tenkasi and Thoothukkudi. The Bench Courts at Ambasamudram and Tenkasi were abolished first. The Bench Court at Tirunelveli followed the suit on the constitution of Special Honorary First Class Magistrates Courts at Tirunelveli, Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Sengottai and Sankarankoil. Another Honorary First Class Magistrate Court was formed at Tirunelveli to handle cases arising from the areas of Tirunelveli Railway Police Stations. All the other Honorary First Class Magistrates were handling class offences arising from the areas of the respective Magistrates. The Courts of Honorary First Class Magistrates were ultimately disbanded in the year 1974 consequent on the introduction of the new Criminal Procedure Code.

The Criminal Procedure Code of 1872 caused the introduction of a systematic Criminal Justice System in the district. The Criminal Judiciary in the district consisted of the Sessions Court and the Magistrate's Courts. The Session Court took cognizance of cases only when committed by competent Magistrates. Assessors or Jury helped in conducting trials. It also had the power to award the maximum punishment prescribed by the Penal Code, Subject to condition that all the capital punishments inflicted by it were to be confirmed by the High Court. It also exercised appellete jurisdiction heard and decided all appeals from the decisions of the District Magistrate's and First Class Magistrates.

Subordinate to the Session Court were the Courts of the Magistrates of the first, second and third classes. The District Collector, as the District Magistrate, exercised first class magisterial powers and controlled the other Magistrates. The Sub-Divisional Magistrates also exercised first class magisterial powers. The Tahsildars were vested with second class powers after they gained little experience. The Magistrates with first class powers could try and pass sentences of imprisonment not exceeding two years and impose fines upto Rs. 1000/-. The Second Class Magistrates enjoyed powers to pass sentences of imprisonment not exceeding six months and to impose fines not exceeding Rs. 200/-. The Third Class Magistrates were vested with powers of passing sentences of imprisonment not exceeding one month and of imposing fines upto Rs. 50/-. In 1955, the limit of fine which may be imposed by the first, second, and third class Magistrates were raised to Rs. 2000/-, Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- respectively.

The District Judge hears appeals against the Judgements of Sub-Judges and District Munsifs. He tries original suits under Christian Law and under Trade Mark Act besides cases under Guardians and Wards Act. He has been vested with powers to hear cases under Estates Abolition Act as a member of the States Abolition Tribunal and he disposed of cases under Motor Vehicles Act to award compensation to the Victims in accidents. The District Judge is inspecting the Subordinate civil courts and the Chief Judicial Magistrate Courts in his respective divisions. He exercises appellate civil jurisdiction upto the value of Rs. 30,000/-.

As a Sessions Judge, he tries sessions cases of grave nature, viz., murder. Due to increase in the number of grave crimes, an Additional Sessions Court had to be created in 1969 to cause the speedy disposal of cases. Besides sessions cases, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, disposes of cases under civil nature which are transferred to him by the Principal District Judge. According to the new Criminal Procedure Code, all criminal appeals are filed before the Sessions Judge in the first instance and the Second Class appeals transferred to the Chief Judicial Magistrate for disposal. Only appeals of first class nature are being heard and disposed of by the Sessions Judge under the new Act. The Sessions Judge is empowered to hear revision against the appeals of chief Judicial Magistrates.

Under the system that now prevails, the jurisdiction of civil courts is fixed under the Tamil Nadu Civil Courts Act. The jurisdiction of the District Munsif Court extends over one or more taluks and the jurisdiction of Sub-Courts extends over one or more Munsifs. In the case of District and Sessions Court, its jurisdiction extends over, the entire revenue district.

The jurisdiction of criminal courts is fixed under the Criminal Procedure Code. The jurisdiction of the Judicial First Class Magistrate Courts and Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate Courts extended over a number of Judicial Second Class Magistrate Courts until the Second Class Magistrate's Courts were abolished.

The Government and the High Court are of the view that the courts at the headquarters should be decentralised so as to avoid over-crowding of courts at one particular centre and also to give sufficient relief to the litigant public, who find it difficult to go to the headquarters for their cases. The Committee of the Officials appointed by the Government in 1970 to undertake State-wide examination of the Jurisdiction of Civil and Criminal Courts submitted its report in 1973. It has recommended the constitution of 28 Civil and 27 new Criminal Courts in the State. Accepting these recommendation, the Government in 1975, decided to implement the scheme on a phased programme spread over a period of five years. For this, the High Court had drawn up a priority list for the constitution of civil and criminals courts.

The history of the courts functioning now in the district is given hereunder:-

Principal District and Sessions Court, Tirunelveli

This Court is a permanent one, started functioning at Kokkirakulam in Tirunelveli since 18 May 1843. The Tirunelveli Collectorate, District Treasury, District Court, District Magistrate's Court, Sub-Court, District Munsif's Court, Sub Jail and the old District Boards Office were located in one and the same campus. After the construction of the new court buildings for the civil and criminal combined courts in Tiruchendur road at Palayamkottai, all these courts functioning in the collectorate campus were shifted to the new buildings on 13th October 1986. This court is presided by the Principal District Judge, who is assisted by a Personal Assistant, Shristadar, Translator, Central Nazir, Assistant Nazir Amins (Senior Bailiff) Process Servers (Junior Bailiffs) Examiners, Readers, Copiests, and other ministerial staff which works about to 105 members.[30]

Additional District and Sessions Court, Tirunelveli

This court began its functions since 9th December 1968[31] and was made permanent on 22nd November 1979.[32] Initially it was located in a portion of the buildings of the old District Magistrates Court Kokkirakulam and later shifted to the Court buildings in Palayamkottai (Tiruchendur road at Palayamkottai) on 13th October 1986.

Both the Principal District and Sessions Court, Additional District and Sessions Court, Sessions Cases, (murder cases) Motor Accident Claim Cases, Petitions Under Guardian and Wards Act, Petition Under Indian Divorce Act and Indian Lunancy Act, Suits under Trade and Merchants Acts, Civil Appeals, Civil Miscellaneous Appeals, Criminal Appeals and Civil Revision Cases are tried. The Principal District Judge is the appointing authority for the Civil Unit in this district. Civil Appeals and Civil Miscellaneous Appeals against the orders of the Sub-Judges, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Ambasamudram are filed in the District Court.

Civil Appeals and Civil Miscellaneous Appeals against the orders of the District Munsifs, Tirunelveli and Valliyoor are also filed in the District Court and are made over to the Sub-Judge, Tirunelveli for disposal.

Motor Accident Claim cases for the entire district are also filed in the District Court and are made over to the Sub Judges, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Ambasamudram for disposal.

So also, session cases and criminal appeals for the entire district are filed in the District Court. Sessions cases other than murder cases and cases under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocites Act 1889), are made over to the Assistant Sessions Judges, Tirunelveli,

District Court Buildings

Tenkasi and Ambasamudram for disposal. The Principal District Judge is also the Designated Judge for conducting cases under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act - (TADA).

Sub Courts

Principal Sub-Court Tirunelveli

The Principal Sub-Court, also a permanent court, was established in 1913. Civil suits having the value of more than Rs. 15000/- to unlimited are tried in this court. It also tries Civil Appeals, Civil Miscellaneous Appeals, Motor Accident Claim cases and Sessions Cases made over by the District Court. Rent Control Appeals against the orders of the Rent Controllers, Tirunelveli, and Valliyoor are filed in the Sub-Court for disposal.

Land Acquisition Cases, Petitions Under Hindu Marriage Act, Insolvency Act, (value exceeding Rs. 15000) Hindu Successions Act,(value exceeding Rs. 15000) are also filed and tried in this court besides the Execution Petitions. The Principal Sub-Judge, Tirunelveli is also acts as tribunal under Education Act and Inam Abolition Act.

Additional Sub Court, Tirunelveli

This Court was constituted in 1970[33] and was made permanent in 1979.[34] It tries all cases as in the Principal Sub Court, except the cases under the Educational Act and Inam Abolition Act. Both the Sub-Courts have territorial jurisdiction over Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Nanguneri taluks.

Sub-Court, Tenkasi

Constituted in 1971[35] and made permanent in 1983.[36] This Court tries Civil Appeal, Civil Miscelleneous Appeals and Rent Control Appeals against the orders of the District Munsifs, Tenkasi, Sengottai and Sankarankoil. Sessions Cases and Motor Accident Claim cases which were made over by the Principal District Judge, Tirunelveli are tried by this court. The court having un-limited pecuniary jurisdiction over and above Rs. 15000/- for civil suits. Land Acquisition Cases, Pettions under Hindu Marriages Act, Insolvency Act (exceeding Rs. 15000/-) Hindu Succession Act (exceeding Rs. 15000/-) are also filled and tried in this court, besides Execution Petitions. This court also functions as educational as well as land tribunal. It has jurisdictions over Tenkasi, Sengottai, Sankarankoil and Veerakeralampudur taluks and appellate jurisdiction over the District Munsif's of Tenkasi, Sengottai and Sankarankoil.

Sub-Court, Ambasamudram

The court inaugurated on 10th November 1992 is still a temporary one.[37] It is having appellate jurisdiction over the District Munsif Court,

Ambasamudram. Civil Appeals, Civil Miscellaneous Appeals and Rent Control Appeals against the orders of the District Munsif, Ambasamudram are filled and tried in this court. It has also to try Sessions Cases, Motor Accident Claim Cases which are made over by the Principal Judge, Tirunelveli.

Cases under the Land Acquisition Act, Petitions under the Hindu Marriages Act, Insolvency Act, (exceeding Rs. 15000/-) besides Execution Petitions are also tried by this court. In matters relating to civil suits, this court has unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction over and above Rs.15000/-. Its territorial jurisdiction is over Ambasamudram taluk alone and the appellate jurisdiction is over the District Munsif's Court, Ambasamudram.

District Munsif's Courts

The following Munsif's Courts are functioning in the district:

The Principal District Munsif's Court, Tirunelveli, the Additional District Munsif's Court, Tirunelveli, the Principal District Munsif's Court, Ambasamudram, Additional District Munsif's Court, Ambasamudram, District Munsif's Court, Tenkasi, the District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrates Court, Sengottai, District Munsif's Court, Sankarankoil,the District Munsif's Court, Valliyoor.

The Principal District Munsif's Court, constituted in the year 1913, has jurisdiction over Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai taluks. It tries original suits upto Rs. 15000/- and small causes suits upto Rs. 500/- original petitions, rent control, pauper, succession and insolvency petitions besides of execution petitions.

This Additional District Munsif's Court, Tirunelveli established in 1970[38] was made permanent in 1973.[39] It also tries all the cases as the Principal District Munsif's Court does and also has jurisdiction over the same area. But the original suits are filed and made over by the Principal District Munsif to Additional District Munsif's for disposal according to law.

The Principal District Munsif's Court, Ambasamudram constituted in the year 1913 is a permanent court. It has jurisdiction over Ambasamudram taluk and tries original suits, small cause suits, rent control, pauper, succession and insolvency cases upto the value of Rs.15000/ besides execution petitions.

The Additional District Munsif's Court Ambasamudram constituted on 22 July 1988 is a temporary Court, which tries all cases as that of the Principal District Munsif's Court. Original suits alone are filed by the Principal District Munsif and made over to the Additional District Munsif for disposal according to law.

The District Munsif's Court, Tenkasi was constituted in the year 1920. This permanent court has jurisdiction over Tenkasi, and Veerakeralampudur taluks and tries original suits, small cause suits, insolvency petitions, etc.

The District Munsif-cum-Judicial Magistrate Court, Sengottai was formally attached to Travancore Cochin State. The territories comprised in the Sengottai taluk became part of Kanniyakumari district with effect from 2 November 1956.[40] As there was no Law Officers at Sengottai, to conduct prosecution before the Munsif Magistrate, the Assistant Public Prosecutor, Punalur, conducted the cases.[41]

The following arrangements were ordered in respect of conduct of cases before the Munsif Magistrates Court, Sengottai, and for the transfer of cases relating to this area together with connected records, pending before the courts of District and Sessions Judge and the District Munsif, Quilon. The Collector of Tirunelveli was requested to depute the Assistant Public Prosecutor grade-II at Tenkasi to conduct prosecution before the Court of Munsif Magistrate, Sengottai till such time as might be necessary for the Collector of Kanniyakumari to make necessary arrangements in this regard.

The Collector of Kanniyakumari was requested to make necessary arrangements for the transfer of cases relating to Sengottai area pending in the Courts of the District and the Sessions Judge and the District Magistrate Quilon, and to the District and Sessions Judge and the District Magistrate, Nagercoil.He was also requested to report about the possibility of deputing one Law Officer from Nagercoil, to conduct cases before the Munsif Court at Sengottai if it was not possible he was asked to make suitable arrangements to settle the pending cases before the Magistrate Court, Sengottai. Instead of the Collector of Kanniyakumari district, the then Collector of Tirunelveli accepted to send the Assistant Public Prosecutor, Tenkasi to attend the pending works in the Court of Munsif Magistrate, Sengottai. This is a permanent court has jurisdiction over Sengottai taluk and tries criminal as well as civil, original suits, small cause suits, rent control cases, pauper and succession original petitions and insolvency petitions, besides petitions of execution.

The District Munsif's Court, Sankarankoil is a permanent court[42] which has been functioning since 3rd September 1980.[43] Like other courts of this stature in the district this court too deals with original, small cause and rent control cases.

As regards the constitution of the District Munsif-cum-Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate Court at Valliyoor, orders were already issued for the constitution of Sub-Divisional and Judicial Magistrate Court, Valliyoor, with the financial assistance offered by the government of India under the

recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission. The High Court was not in favour of investing civil powers on the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Valliyoor to try cases, in view of the Separation Committee's observation that simultaneous system has since proved to be a failure. The High Court was examining separately the proposal for the constitution of a separate distict Munsif Court at Valliyoor.[44] Atlast this court was constituted as a temporary court in 1988,[45] and started functioning since 12th October 1988. It has territorial jurisdiction over Valliyoor, Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks.

All the Subordinate Judges in this district are exercising the powers of the Assistant Sessions Judge. The Principal Sub-Judge of Tirunelveli and Sub-Judges of Tenkasi and Ambasamudram are trying cases under the Land Acquisition Act. The Principal Sub-Judge, Tirunelveli also tries all the cases under the Inam Abolition Act as Tribunal, under the Madras Acts, 38/61 and 30/63.

The Principal and Additional Sub-Judge, Tirunelveli the Sub-Judge, Tenkasi and the Sub-Judge, Ambasamudram are trying the motor accident claims of original petitions under the motor vehicles act.

The District Munsif, Sengottai is exercising powers also as a Judicial Magistrate. The Principal Sub-Judge, at Tirunelveli and the Sub-Judges at Tenkasi and Ambasamudram were constituted as Tribunal for dealing with the appeals under section 42 of the Tamil Nadu Recognised Private Schools Regulations.

Particulars of disposal of criminal cases by the Principal Sessions Judge and Additional Sessions Judge, etc., Tirunelveli, during 1995 are as follows:-

		Sessions Cases	*Criminal Appeals*	*Criminal Revision Cases.*
1.	Principal Sessions Judge-Tirunelveli.	35	85	57
2.	Addl. Sessions Judge, Tirunelveli.	54	79	17
3.	Principal Asst. Sessions Judge, Tirunelveli.	26	-	-
4.	Addl. Asst. Sessions Judge, Tirunelveli.	28	-	-
5.	Asst. Sessions Judge, Tenkasi.	35	-	-
6.	Asst. Sessions Judge, Ambasamudram.	26	-	-

The total number of original suits instituted during 1995 in all the courts in the district was 3390 and small cause suits were 16. The breakup is for money or movable property, 1585, for immovable property 1292, for specific reliefs 213, for mortgages 180, and for other reliefs 120.

The total number of appeals preferred in the district during 1995 were 271 and the number of civil miscellaneous appeals prefered were 241.

The number of original suits instituted in all the District Munsif's Courts in the district during 1995 were 2587. 2971 suits were disposed of by these courts, leaving a pendency of 8885 suits at the end of the year. The total pendency has increased from 8652 to 8885. The pendency of over one year old suits has increased from 5889 to 6266. 675 suits were disposed of at the full trial and the duration therefore was 1827.

The number of small cause suits instituted in all the District Munsif's Courts during 1995 were 16 and 22 suits were disposed of in the same year. Two suits were disposed of after full trial with an average duration of 293 days.

The number of original suits instituted in all the Subordinate Courts in the district in 1995 were 716.(799)

In the District Courts, 79 original suits were instituted during 1995. Suits were filed in the Vacation Civil Courts.

Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction

In the District Courts and Sub Courts 271(338) appeals were instituted in 1995, of which 259(347) appeals were disposed of during the year 35(5) by the District Court, Tirunelveli, 69(103) in the sub Court, Tirunelveli 127 (136) in the Sub Court, Tenkasi, and 28(58) in the Sub Court, Ambasamudram.

Miscellaneous Appeals and Rent Control Appeals

Out of 241 (196) appeals filed 124(129) appeals were disposed of leaving a pendency of 676 (547) at the end of the year 1995 of which 551(417) were over three months old.

The District Court exercises revisional powers also under the Tamil Nadu Trusts (Regulation of Administration of Agricultural Lands) Act and is also empowered to exercise civil revision cases agsinst the decree of the District Munsif in small cause suits under the Tamil Nadu Act 32 of 1982 from 1 January 1983, but no revision was filed and disposed of during 1995.

1157(906) execution proceedings petitions were filed in the district, of which 1323 (1073) were disposed of and 1258 (1236) were pending at

the end of the year 1995. The amount realised in the execution decree was Rs. 19.69 lakhs.

8(12) insolvency petitions were filed in the district in 1995, of which 17(13) were disposed of leaving a pendency of 19(38) petitions at the end of the year. No insolvent was granted absolute discharge under section 41 of the Provincial Insolvency Act, during 1995.

About 19000 (21754) miscellaneous cases were instituted during the year in which 15314 (22846) cases were disposed of, and 9742 were pending trial.

362 (494) rent control original petitions were instituted of which, 240 petitions were disposed of and 290 petitions were pending at the end of the year and 251 petitions were pending for more then 3 months. In no case, compensatory cost was awarded by the courts in the district in 1995.

The Court Fee realised during 1995 in the district was Rs. 5088633/ The break up for which is:- (i) District Courts, Rs. 791506 (ii) Sub-Courts, Rs. 3394931 and (iii) the District Munsifs Courts Rs. 902196, respectively.[46]

From 1990 to 1996 June, death penalty was not imposed in any case either by the Principal District Court or by the Additional District Court, Tirunelveli. Seventeen life imprisonments by the Principal District Court, and 20 by the Additional District Munsif Court were awarded during 1990. In 1995, twelve persons were awarded life sentences by the courts referred to above.

Statistics regarding the institution, disposal and pendency in all categories of cases in various courts in the district are furnished in the **Appendices-1 to 15.**

Labour Court, Tirunelveli

Prior to 1990, there were two Labour Courts functioning at Madurai. The Additional Labour Court, Madurai was shifted to Tirunelveli on 23rd February 1990 and the same began its functions on 9th October 1992. The Presiding Officer, in the cadre of District Judge heads this court. This court is established with the objective of mitigating the grievancess of the workmen. Also this court is adjudicating the labour disputes referred to by the government and also the claim petitions filed by parties. Camp Courts at Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts, are held by the Presiding Officer on first and third Wednesdays and at Nagercoil on every Tuesday.

The particulars of cases instituted, disposed of and pending in the Labour Court, Tirunelveli for the years 1993 to 1995 is furnished below:-

	Pending at the beginning	*Institution*	*Total*	*Disposal*	*Pending at the end*
1993					
Industrial Disputes	660	216	876	307	569
Claim Petitions	394	300	694	183	511
S.33 Petitions	1	-	1	1	-
S.33 Petitions	17	3	20	2	18
Standing Order Appeals	11	-	11	1	10
1994					
Industrial Disputes	569	148	717	382	335
Claim petitions	511	371	882	350	532
S.33 petitions	18	1	19	16	3
Standing Orders Appeals	10	1	11		9
1995					
Industrial Disputes	335	214	549	81	468
Claim Petitions	532	259	791	61	730
S.33 Petitions	3	-	3	1	2
Standing Order Appeals	9	1	-	10	10

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum, Tirunelveli

This forum was functioning from 30th October 1990 to 6th March 1994 in the District Court complex.[47] The District and Sessions Judge, Tirunelveli was its President. Later, in 1993 this forum was shifted to a rented building at Shanti Nagar, Palayamkottai to function independently. Apart from the President two Members were also appointed for this forum for a period of 5 years i.e. from 1st November1990 to 31st October 95.

The forum looks after the consumer cases arise in Tirunelveli and Chidambaranar districts. To attend those cases, the President of the

Tirunelveli district pays visit to the District Court, Thoothukkudi on every Thursdays and dispose off those cases also.[48]

The number of cases which were dealt by this forum is as follows

Sl. No.	*Year*	*Cases Filed*	*Cases Disposed*
1.	1990	3	1
2.	1991	231	109
3.	1992	370	292
4.	1993	244	219
5.	1994	345	308
6.	1995	215	370
7.	1996	47	-

Legal Aid to the poor

Under Article 39-A of the Constitution of India, provision of legal aid to the poor is a constitutional obligation. In order to provide legal aid to the poor, the Government of Tamil Nadu have constituted the Tamil Nadu State Legal Aid and Advisory Board in 1977 which is functioning under two eminent retired High Cout Judges. Besides, the District and Taluk Committees for Legal Aid Counselling Centres have been formed in the city of Madras as well as in all the districts. The government are financing the board by way of grants to meet its expenditure. The board is rendering legal aid to the poor and deserving persons and to the members of the weaker sections of the society. Legal assistance is also extended to the victims of the motor accidents in securing compensation. The board's programme includes assistance for securing relief through authorities in the District Courts and Tribunals and assistance to women and children for maintenance.

The affairs of the board are managed by an executive committee consisting of official and non-official members.

As regards this district, eight Free Legal Aid Committees are functioning. They are as follows:

1. Tirunelveli District Legal Aid and Advisory Committee - District Court Campus - Palayamkottai.
2. Ambasamudram Taluk Legal Aid and Advisory Committee- Court Campus - Ambasamudram
3. Tenkasi Taluk Legal Aid and Advisory Committee - Court Campus Tenkasi.

4. Sengottai Taluk Legal Aid and Advisory Committee - Court Campus, Sengottai.

5. Radhapuram Taluk Legal Aid and Advisory Committee - Court Campus, Valliyoor.

6. Sankarankoil Taluk, Legal Aid and Advisory Committee, District Munsif's Court Campus, Sankarankoil.

7. Nanguneri Free Legal Aid Centre, Court Campus- Nanguneri and

8. Cheranmahadevi Free Legal Aid Centre, Court Campus-Cheranmahadevi.

Also, at Kadayanallur (Tenkasi taluk), Sambuvarvadakarai (Sengottail taluk), Kallidaikurichy (Ambasamudram taluk) and Sivagiri (Sankarankoil taluk) Counselling Centres are functioning. Two Legal Aid Centres exclusively for solving the problems of women are functioning in the district, one at Tirunelveli town (Hindu High School buildings) and the other at Tenkasi town.[49]

Particulars of cases instituted and disposed of and pending in Tirunelveli District Free Legal Aid Committee

Sl.No.	*Year*	*No.of Cases Instituted*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	1990	2345	1116	1229
2.	1991	2392	1229	1163
3.	1992	1968	826	1142
4.	1993	2056	811	1245
5.	1994	2019	831	1188
6.	1995	1930	1460	470
7.	1996 (as on 31-3-96)	636	157	479

APPENDIX - I

Principal District and Sessions Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institution, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

YEARS		1980			1981			1982			1983		
Sl. No	Name of Category of Cases	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	190	168	22	301	294	7	238	219	19	214	207	7
2.	Civil Appeals	273	266	7	191	177	14	181	158	23	195	161	34
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	23	18	5	51	49	2	70	62	8	86	59	27
4.	Execution Petitions	39	21	18	102	85	17	52	37	15	52	40	12
5.	Original Petitions	136	96	321	94	161	35	206	167	39	268	203	65
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	259	193	66	323	298	25	325	325	-	362	362	-
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	1515	1413	102	2889	2782	107	2243	2214	129	1041	971	70
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	141	-	141	185	154	31	34	1	33	36	1	35
9.	Sessions Cases	76	58	18	96	63	33	90	52	38	105	67	38
10.	Criminal Appeals	341	322	19	136	107	29	116	90	26	62	39	23
11.	Civil Revision Cases	74	65	9	42	37	5	21	20	1	17	7	10

APPENDIX - 1 (contd)

Principal District and Session Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institution, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

Sl. No	YEARS / Name of Category of Cases	1984 Total for Disposed	1984 Disposed of	1984 Pending	1985 Total for Disposed	1985 Disposed of	1985 Pending	1986 Total for Disposed	1986 Disposed of	1986 Pending	1987 Total for Disposed	1987 Disposed of	1987 Pending
1.	Original Suits	278	275	003	089	088	001	300	300	---	057	056	001
2.	Civil Appeals	170	120	050	279	237	042	206	164	042	180	130	050
3.	Civil MiscellaneousAppeals	065	063	002	045	032	0103	065	052	0103	049	029	020
4.	Execution Petitions	S041	036	005	015	013	002	0020	015	005	018	014	004
5.	Original Petitions	031	280	051	159	133	026	147	121	026	173	114	059
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	265	263	002	527	526	001	461	461	---	486	483	003
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	745	684	061	1560	1451	109	1543	1374	169	1538	1261	277
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	036	001	035	036	004	032	033	001	032	032	---	032
9.	Sessions Cases	072	052	020	075	047	028	166	138	028	263	224	039
10.	Criminal Appeals	076	049	0537	097	082	015	248	213	035	366	272	091
11.	Civil Revision Cases	016	013	003	030	025	005	078	066	012	133	100	033

APPENDIX - 1 (contd).

Principal District and Sessions Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institution, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

YEARS		1988			1989			1990			1991		
Sl.	Name of Category	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	074	078	001	003	003	---	090	090	---	---	---	---
2.	Civil Appeals	127	067	063	191	168	023	240	217	023	042	020	022
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	060	026	034	122	117	005	063	051	012	025	018	007
4.	Execution Petitions	009	007	002	010	009	001	013	009	004	028	019	009
5.	Original Petitions	148	065	083	120	089	031	150	121	029	110	073	037
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	653	651	002	052	052	---	1048	1048	--	038	038	---
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	1445	1041	404	2126	1947	179	1809	1579	230	2050	1807	253
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	042	009	033	033	033	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
9.	Sessions Cases	306	260	046	120	063	057	086	049	037	075	048	027
10.	Criminal Appeals	389	243	146	332	236	096	024	159	105	239	106	133
11..	Civil Revision Cases	147	086	061	107	092	015	052	037	015	061	049	012

APPENDIX - 1 (contd)

Principal District and Sessions Court- Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institution, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

	YEARS	1992			1993			1994			1995		
Sl. No	Name of Category of Cases	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	285	285	---	186	153	023	088	084	004	048	047	001
2.	Civil Appeals	211	179	032	097	097	---	228	171	057	0183	119	064
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	071	062	009	019	016	003	074	070	004	129	027	092
4.	Execution Petitions	027	018	009	159	152	007	009	009	---	038	024	014
5.	Original Petitions	243	192	051	---	---	---	125	109	016	098	084	014
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	1018	1018	---	974	974	---	1043	1029	014	1022	1009	013
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	1941	1703	238	1634	1516	118	1610	1508	102	1610	1508	102
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
9.	Sessions Cases	735	615	120	572	506	066	310	195	115	310	195	115
10.	Criminal Appeals	445	264	181	278	193	085	282	182	100	282	182	100
11.	Civil Revision Cases	156	124	032	108	072	036	112	072	040	112	072	040

APPENDIX - 2

First Additional District and Session Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

Sl. No	YEARS / Name of Category of Cases	1980 Total for Disposed	1980 Disposed of	1980 Pending	1981 Total for Disposed	1981 Disposed of	1981 Pending	1982 Total for Disposed	1982 Disposed of	1982 Pending	1983 Total for Disposed	1983 Disposed of	1983 Pending
1.	Original Suits	020	020	---	010	008	002	005	003	002	044	004	---
2.	Civil Appeals	090	555	035	072	046	026	056	029	027	068	040	028
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	023	017	006	011	088	003	007	005	002	018	005	013
4.	Execution Petitions	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5.	Original Petitions	002	001	001	008	003	005	007	007	---	---	---	---
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	106	077	029	057	030	029	048	042	006	008	008	---
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	459	424	035	362	340	022	355	344	011	185	177	008
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
9.	Sessions Cases	079	061	018	109	058	047	103	065	038	097	069	028
10.	Criminal Appeals	118	103	015	126	095	031	094	076	018	106	094	012
11.	Civil Revision Cases	032	025	007	042	033	009	015	024	022	022	019	003

APPENDIX - 2 (contd)

First Additional District and Session Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

YEARS	1984			1985			1986			1987		
Sl. No. Name of Category of Case	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending
1. Original Suits	003	003	---	002	002	---	---	---	---	060	017	043
2. Civil Appeals	067	038	029	078	012	066	040	050	045	020	002	018
3. Civil Miscellaneous Appeals		024	005	019	031	014	017	020	005	015	---	---
4. Execution Petitions	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	016	005	014
5. Original Petitions	024	015	009	034	020	014	026	016	011	079	011	068
6. Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	--	---	---	033	004	029	068	017	051	149	106	063
7. Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	158	131	027	189	154	035	---	---	021	---	---	---
8. Civil Revision Petitions	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
9. Sessions Cases	070	045	025	081	054	027	080	049	031	083	025	038
10. Criminal Appeals	107	086	021	104	078	026	121	086	035	117	030	087
11. Civil Revision Cases	040	030	010	010	---	010	035	027	008	053	013	040

APPENDIX 2 (contd)

First Additional District and Session Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

	YEARS	*1988*			*1989*			*1990*			*1991*		
Sl. No.	*Name of Category of Cases*	*Total for Disposed*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposed*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposed*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposed*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suits	---	---	---	001	---	001	001	---	001	001	---	001
2.	Civil Appeals	025	014	011	048	016	032	039	012	037	053	007	046
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	014	008	006	043	017	026	043	007	036	055	005	050
4.	Execution Petitions	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
5.	Original Petitions	017	007	010	088	028	060	089	023	066	102	020	082
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	046	005	041	109	022	087	157	040	117	161	037	123
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	129	096	033	384	288	096	324	222	102	209	038	113
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	004	---	004	040	002	038	039	--	039	039	---	039
9.	Sessions Cases	114	034	080	153	034	119	184	029	155	211	014	197
10.	Criminal Appeals	111	083	098	289	151	138	242	108	134	230	089	141
11.	Civil Revision Cases	068	033	035	097	050	047	086	039	047	081	021	060

APPENDIX - 2 (contd)

First Additional District and Sessions Court - Tirunelvei

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

Sl. No	Name of Category of Cases	1992 Total for Disposed	1992 Disposed of	1992 Pending	1993 Total for Disposed	1993 Disposed of	1993 Pending	1994 Total for Disposed	1994 Disposed of	1994 Pending	1995 Total for Disposed	1995 Disposed of	1995 Pending
1.	Original Suits	004	--	004	005	--	005	006	002	004	004	001	003
2.	Civil Appeals	067	024	043	060	017	043	061	024	037	048	010	038
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	092	028	064	098	043	055	068	019	049	063	009	054
4.	Execution Petitions --	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
5.	Original Petitions	153	043	110	157	075	082	143	055	088	150	051	099
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	344	193	191	368	126	242	343	074	268	332	162	170
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	547	460	087	623	483	140	651	528	123	613	491	122
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	039	--	039	039	005	034	036	034	002	003	--	003
9.	Sessions Cases	150	030	120	168	112	056	136	030	106	179	061	118
10.	Criminal Appeals	210	157	053	338	165	173	242	128	114	210	079	131
11.	Civil Revision Cases	082	046	036	162	106	056	085	038	047	068	017	051

APPENDIX - 3

Second Additional District and Session Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

Sl. No.	YEARS / Name of Category of Cases	1980 Total for Disposed	1980 Disposed of	1980 Pending	1981 Total for Disposed	1981 Disposed of	1981 Pending	1982 Total for Disposed	1982 Disposed of	1982 Pending	1983 Total for Disposed	1983 Disposed of	1983 Pending
1.	Original Suits	009	007	002	010	010	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2.	Civil Appeals	015	015	--	--	--	--	015	011	004	041	028	013
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	002	002	--	002	002	--	007	007	--	001	001	--
4.	Execution Petitions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5.	Original Petitions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	244	222	022	082	082	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	517	511	006	121	121	--	179	177	002	113	099	014
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
9.	Sessions Cases	003	001	002	002	002	--	024	020	004	065	030	035
10.	Criminal Appeals	038	038	--	019	019	--	073	042	031	168	136	032
11.	Civil Revision Cases	010	010	--	008	008	--	011	008	003	037	030	007

APPENDIX - 3 (contd)

Second Additional District and Session Court - Tirunelveli

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

Sl. No	YEARS / Name of Category of Cases	1984 Total for Disposed	1984 Disposed of	1984 Pending	1985 Total for Disposed	1985 Disposed of	1985 Pending	1986 Total for Disposed	1986 Disposed of	1986 Pending	1987 Total for Disposed	1987 Disposed of	1987 Pending
1.	Original Suits	004	001	003	003	003	003	--	--	--	--	--	--
2.	Civil Appeals	068	021	027	080	027	053	090	035	055	043	026	017
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	012	--	012	016	011	005	017	008	009	011	002	009
4.	Execution Petitions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5.	Original Petitions	021	--	021	043	030	013	033	025	008	013	002	011
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	034	--	034	038	012	026	079	038	041	058	028	030
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	071	050	021	261	210	051	261	220	041	217	196	021
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
9.	Sessions Cases	101	042	059	089	061	028	083	055	028	094	027	067
10.	Criminal Appeals	174	096	078	161	110	051	122	093	029	142	013	129
11.	Civil Revision Cases	033	024	009	047	026	021	049	036	013	041	009	032

APPENDIX - 3 (contd)

Additional District and Sessions Court - Tirunelvli

Particulars of Institutions, Disposal and Pendency in all Categories of Cases

YEARS		1988			1989			1990			1991		
Sl. No.	Name of Category of Cases	al for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposed	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	--	--	--	001	--	001	001	--	001	001	--	001
2.	Civil Appeals	025	014	011	048	016	032	049	012	037	053	007	046
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	014	008	006	043	017	026	043	007	036	055	005	050
4.	Execution Petitions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5.	Original Petitions	017	007	010	088	028	060	089	023	066	102	020	082
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	046	005	041	109	022	087	157	040	117	164	039	129
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	129	096	033	384	228	096	324	222	102	209	038	119
8.	Civil Revision Petitions	004	--	004	040	002	038	039	--	039	039	--	039
9.	Sessions Cases	114	034	080	153	034	119	184	029	155	211	014	197
10.	Criminal Appeals	101	083	098	289	151	138	242	108	134	230	089	141
11.	Civil Revision Cases	068	033	035	097	050	047	086	039	047	081	021	060

APPENDIX - 4

Principal Subordinate Judges Court - Tirunelveli.

Particulars of Institutions, Disposed of and Pendency in all Categories of Cases.

		1994			1995		
Sl. No.	*Name of Category of Cases*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suites	573	184	389	586	344	242
2.	Civil Appeals	185	069	116	152	044	108
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	084	024	060	087	017	070
4.	Execution Petitions	268	147	121	283	186	097
5.	Original Petitions	666	147	519	619	252	367
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	667	091	576	884	314	570
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	2943	1835	1108	3116	2023	1093
8.	Rent Central Appeals.	183	034	152	224	047	177
9.	Sessions Cases	243	064	179	229	026	203
10.	Revenue Appeals	010	--	010	010	007	003
11.	Insolvancy Petitions	025	005	020	027	016	011

APPENDIX - 5

Principal Subordinate Judges Court, Tirunelveli,

Particulars of Institutions, Disposals and Pendency in all Categories of Cases.

Sl. No	Name of Category of Cases	1994			1995		
		Total for disposal	Disposed of	Pending	Total for disposal	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	834	095	739	928	553	375
2.	Civil Appeals	236	036	200	256	029	227
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	076	006	070	077	006	071
4.	Original Petitions	297	055	242	306	106	200
5.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions.	609	067	542	855	201	654
6.	Rent Central Appeals	--	--	--	--	--	--
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	1599	512	1087	1866	817	1049
8.	Sessions Cases	349	018	331	362	023	339

APPENDIX - 6

Subordinate Judges Court - Tenkasi

Particulars of Institutions, Disposed of and Pendency in all Categories of Cases.

		1994			1995		
Sl. No.	*Name of Category of Cases*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suites	1207	160	1407	1367	827	540
2.	Civil Appeals	446	136	310	427	128	299
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	140	006	134	149	008	141
4.	Execution Petitions	207	071	136	221	138	083
5.	Original Petitions	278	081	197	298	114	184
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	980	141	839	1119	093	1026
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	3049	2001	1048	3464	2549	915
8.	Rent Control Appeals.	047	004	045	051	011	040
9.	Sessions Cases	608	055	553	627	039	588
10.	Revenue Appeals	--	--	--	--	--	--
11.	Insolvancy Petitions	017	007	010	013	003	010

APPENDIX - 7

Subordinate Judges Court, Ambasamudram

Particulars of Institutions, Disposed of and Pendency in all Categories of Cases.

		1994			1995		
Sl. No.	*Name of Category of Cases*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suits	290	078	212	314	175	139
2.	Civil Appeals	281	060	221	277	028	249
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Appeals	048	018	029	035	012	023
4.	Execution Petitions	044	012	032	057	040	017
5.	Original Petitions	263	145	118	259	120	139
6.	Motor Accident Compensation Original Petitions	218	047	171	206	063	143
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	1496	982	514	1295	841	454
8.	Rent Control Appeals.	018	013	005	010	006	004
9.	Sessions Cases	236	084	152	182	029	153
10.	Revenue	--	--	--	--	--	--
11.	Insolvancy Petitions	010	004	006	006	--	006

APPENDIX - 8

Principal District Munsif Court - Tirunelveli.

Particulars of Institutions, Disposed of and Pendency in all Categories of Cases.

Sl. No.	Name of Category of Cases	1980			1981		
		Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	1589	526	1063	1381	425	956
2.	Execution Petitions	726	409	148	112	297	315
3.	Original Petitions	467	402	005	305	302	003
4.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	4119	3328	791	2877	2043	834
5.	Rent Control Appeals	254	106	148	218	120	098
6.	Insolvancy Petitions	001	001	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 9
Additional District Munsif Court - Tirunelveli

Sl. No.	Name of Category of Cases	1994			1995		
		Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	1461	437	1024	1331	326	1005
2.	Small Cause Suits	006	004	002	006	004	002
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	2982	2165	817	1728	868	860
4.	Rent Control Appeals	223	137	089	165	064	101

APPENDIX - 10

Principal District Munsif's Court - Ambasamudram

Sl. No.	Name of Category of Cases	1980			1981		
		Total for Disposal	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suits	1734	510	1224	1688	690	998
2.	Rent Control Appeals	067	030	037	046	021	025
3.	Original Petitions	159	151	008	106	089	017
4.	Execution Petitions	359	165	194	398	154	244
5.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	3609	2285	1324	2922	1630	1292

APPENDIX - 11

Additional District Munsif Court - Ambasamudram

Sl. No.	Name of Category of Cases	1994			1995		
		Total for Disposal	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suits	454	166	288	632	222	410
2.	Small Cause Suits	015	014	001	004	004	--
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	354	476	078	541	352	189

APPENDIX - 12
Additional District Munsif's Court - Sankarankoil

Sl No.	Name of Category of Cases	1994			1995		
		Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	1887	307	1588	2051	388	1663
2.	Small Cause Suits	002	001	001	013	011	002
3.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	036	004	032	351	--	035
4.	Original Petitions	116	113	003	158	157	001
5.	Execution Petitions	298	068	030	278	084	194
6.	Insolvancy Petitions	001	--	001	001	--	001
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	4136	1859	2279	4001	1469	2532

APPENDIX - 13
Additional District Munsif's Court - Tenkasi

Sl. No	Name of Category of Cases	1994			1995		
		Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending	Total for Disposal	Disposed of	Pending
1.	Original Suits	2080	767	1311	2195	605	1590
2.	Small Cause Suits	002	002	--	005	001	004
3.	Rent Control Appeals	023	013	010	033	019	014
4.	Original Petitions	006	005	001	003	002	001
5.	Execution Petitions	263	217	146	315	150	165
6.	Insolvancy Petitions	001	--	001	002	--	002
7.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	3971	2755	1216	3748	2233	1515

APPENDIX - 14
Additional District Munsif's Court - Sengottai

Sl. No.	*Name of Category of Cases*	*1994*			*1995*		
		Total for Disposal	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suits	461	175	286	378	185	193
2.	Rent Control Appeals	003	001	002	004	001	003
3.	Original Petitions	054	054	--	027	027	--
4.	Execution Petitions	206	025	181	217	184	033
5.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	694	468	226	607	425	182

APPENDIX - 15
Additional District Munsif's Court - Valliyoor

Sl. No.	Name of Category of Cases	1994			1995		
		Total for Disposal	*Disposed of*	*Pending*	*Total for Disposal*	*Disposed of*	*Pending*
1.	Original Suits	2316	448	1868	2579	509	2070
2.	Small case Suits	016	012	004	006	003	003
3.	Rent Control Appeals	026	009	017	031	017	014
4.	Original Petitions	518	515	003	506	524	002
5.	Execution Petitions	379	211	168	266	156	110
6.	Civil Miscellaneous Petitions	4419	2470	1949	5316	3006	2310

Notes and References

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6. John William Kaye - *The Administration of the East India Company- A History of Indian Progress* - - London - 1853 - p. 385.
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26. Report on the Administration of Jails of the Madras Presidency - 1919, p. 24.

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29. G.O. No. 3694, Law (General), dated 23 September, 1929

30. H.R. Fate - Tirunelveli District Gazetteer.

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34. G.O. Ms. No. 388, Home (Courts III) department, dated 21 January, 1979.

35. G.O. Ms. No. 1971, Home (Courts III), dated 7 August 1979.

36. G.O. Ms. No. 312, Home (Courts III), dated 16 February 1983.

37. G.O. Ms. No. 1624, Home (Courts III) Department, dated 24 September 1992.

38. G.O. Ms. No. 2630, Home department, dated 23rd December 1970.

39. G.O. Ms. No. 2988, Home department, (Courts III), dated 6 September 1943.

40. G.O. Ms. No. 3994, Revenue, dated 20 October 1956.

41. G.O. Ms. No. 3052, Home, dated 31 October 1956.

42. G.O. Ms. No. 1324, Home (Courts III), dated 5 June 1987.

43. G.O. Ms. No. 2279, Home (Courts III) dated 3 September 1980.

44. Administration of Justice, Home Department, Policy Note - 1984-85.

45. G.O. Ms. No. 554, Home (Courts III) Department, dated 4 March 1987.

46. Report from the Principal District Judge, Tirunelveli, dated 14 June 1996.

47. G.O. Ms. No. 916, Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection department, dated. 27 July 1990.

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49. Based on the report furnished by the President, District Committee for Legal Aid and Advice Tirunelveli.

CHAPTER - 12

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Government, the custodian of the people, implement welfare schemes, employment oriented and poverty alleviation programmes to improve the economic condition and standard of living of the people particularly the poor. Consequent on the new legislations of the Government on administration new departments and public sector undertakings are created. In this regard, viable regionalisation and reorganisation of the original administrative set up was taken up to assist the departments. This chapter among other things, deals with the activities of the departments of Adi Dravidar and Trible Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare, Labour Welfare, Rehabilitation of repatriates, Ex-servicemen's welfare, Co-operation, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Civil Supplies etc., including Public Sector undertakings.

Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department

The objects of this department are the upliftment of the Adi Dravidars and Scheduled tribes by implementing educational and socio economic schemes like sanctioning scholarships, special coaching to Adi Dravidar and Scheduled tribes candidates in typewriting and shorthand, running of Adi Dravidar schools and hostels, sanctioning of subsidy for purchase of plough bulls, supplying tools and appliances to the technically trained SC, ST converts and granting free pattas providing financial assistance to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and scheduled castes converted to Christianity either to continue their studies or to have training in typing and shorthand or to help them in getting loans and subsidy for purchase of plough bulls. The other schemes are intended to supply tools and appliances like sewing machines, leather stitching machine and iron boxes etc., so that they may be provided with self employment so as to make them self sustained. The students are provided with text books, uniforms and hostel accommodation. The other scheme 'grant of free house sites' provides sites to the Adi Dravidars to construct their own houses.

The Directorate of Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare is the state level office functioning at Chennai. There is no regional level office for the department. District Adi Dravidar Welfare Office functioning at Tirunelveli, Collectorate is under the control of the District Collector at the district level. This office is functioning with a District Adi Dravidar Welfare Officer, in the cadre of Deputy Collector, an Assistant Accounts Officer, a Head Assistant in the cadre of Deputy Tahsildar, a Superintendent, a Junior Engineer, seven assistants, three junior assistants, three typists, a record clerk, a jeep driver, three office assistants, an overseer and a night watchman.

This district is divided into five units namely Tirunelveli, Sankarankoil, Cheranmahadevi, Tenkasi, and Nanguneri for effective implementation of the scheme and each unit is placed under the control of a Special Tahsildar. Tirunelveli unit has jurisdiction over Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai taluks, Sankarankoil over Sankarankoil and Sivagiri taluks, Cheranmahadevi over Ambasamudram taluk, Tenkasi over Tenkasi, Sengottai taluks and Veerakeralampudhur additional taluk and Nanguneri over Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks. Besides the Special Tahsildar, an assistant, a junior assistant, a special revenue inspector in the cadre of assistant, a special revenue inspector in the cadre of junior assistant, a special sub-inspector of survey, a typist, an office assistant and a field assistant work here. All these five offices are accommodated in the Government buildings.

The pre metric scholarships were provided to 24906 persons and post matric scholarships were provided to 8349 members for the year 1992-93 in this district. The number of persons benefited during the same period under special coaching in type writing and shorthand were 746. Sixty eight persons were benefited under the supply of tools and appliances to the technically trained.

This district had 16 Adi-Dravidar Welfare schools and 44 hostels during the year 1992-93, and 2555 students were benefited by this scheme. In the same year 29 persons were provided with a subsidy of Rs.1500/- by loans from commercial banks for the purchase of plough bulls under scheme subsidy. Under the scheme grant of Free house sites for the year 1992-93.[1] 1777 persons were provided with pattas for the construction of houses free of cost.

Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare, and Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities Welfare Departments

These two departments are headed by two different Directors at the State level and are in charge of executing the welfare schemes for the upliftment of Backward classes, and Most Backward classes and Denotified Communities in the State. The District Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Officer in the cadre of Deputy Collector who is in charge of the department in the district is responsible for implementing various schemes introduced by the Government under instructions from the District Collector who monitors the execution of all the schemes. For example maintenance of free supply of note books, slates and uniforms to the students of these schools, maintaining boarding homes, hostels for the students of Backward classes, Most Backward classes and Denotified communities, sanctioning prematric and post matric scholarships to students of these communities, providing free education to the students of the above communities upto degree level and for professional courses, sanctioning awards and prizes to bright students at the district level and state level, providing grants to

subsidised hostels, recognised by government, supplying tools and implements to barbers and dhobies, issuing house site pattas to most backward classes and denotified communities, conducting coaching centres for entrance examinations to students appearing for professional courses and Civil Service examinations are the main works of this department.

In the district, there were nine backward classes welfare schools in which 585 boys and 538 girls were educated. Twenty two hostels for backward classes and 39 hostels for most backward classes and denotified communities were functioning here. The Government provided a grant of Rs.120 and Rs.175 per student staying in high school and college hostels respectively. The Government had incurred an expenditure of Rs.11,11,817/- benefiting 23473 students during the year 1992-93 under pre matric scholarship scheme and under post matric scholarship scheme. The expenditure of the government amounted to Rs.25,94,017/- for the same period benefiting 7796 students. Similarly the free education scheme benefited 8181 students and Rs.21,12,515/- were spent during the year 1992-93. Peraringnar Anna Memorial Award and Thanthai Periyar Memorial award were introduced with a view to encourage the meritorious students from these communities in the district who had secured top ranks in X standard and in Higher Secondary School examinations and were continuing their studies in polytechnic courses and professional courses. Two thousand rupees were awarded per year during their course period. Under these, 23 students were benefited during 1992-93. Apart from these, state and district level prizes were also awarded to boys and girls who secured high marks in the X standard examination and Higher secondary level.

Land acquisition is made by this department through Tahsildars with a view to issue pattas to the poor belonging to most backward classes and denotified communities to have their own houses. This department also helps the people of these communities to set up saloons, laundries and mobile laundries to get loan from nationalised banks. Fifty percent of the loan amount is given as subsidy by this department. Free supply of tools like Iron box, barber kits and tools are also made by this department.

During the year 1993-94, 16848 pre matric scholarships were issued and Rs.6,58,206/- were disbursed for this; 703 post matric scholarships were issued and Rs.2,57,778/- was the expenditure incurred for the same under free education scheme. Professional course 15, degree 746, hostel 89, schools 39, boarding grant 13, books and slates 1155, award of prizes 2, students were benefited and Rs.22,260/-, Rs.8,95,174/- Rs.20,90,252/-, Rs.64,241/- and Rs.3005/- were spent for them. For putting up laundry one person was given Rs.1500/-[2].

Co-operative Department

The Registrar of Cooperative Societies is the head of the Cooperative Department at the State level, having overall control of Cooperative institutions functioning in the State. The Cooperative Institutions functioning in Tirunelveli District are administered and controlled by a Regional Joint Registrar having headquarters at Tirunelveli. There are 471 various types of Cooperative institutions in this district. At the district level, is a Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies in each Revenue Division who directly administers, controls and inspects the proper functioning of Cooperative Societies in the division. In Tirunelveli District, there are three Revenue Divisions, viz., Tirunelveli, Cheranmahadevi and Tenkasi. Three Circle Deputy Registrars are working in the three Revenue Divisions as their Headquarters. Besides, the Deputy Registrar (Public Distribution System) Tirunelveli is functioning to assist the Regional Joint Registrar to implement the Public Distribution System in the district. There are 738 Cooperative Fair Price Shops which are run by 180 Cooperative Institutions such as cooperative wholesale Stores, Cooperative Marketing Societies, Cooperative Stores, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks and Multi purpose Societies. The essential commodities like sugar, rice, wheat, kerosene and edible oils are distributed to 4,58,999 family card holders through the 738 Cooperative Fair Price shops in this district. The Administrative set up of this Department in the district is given below:

Circle (Divisions)	*Taluks*	*Panchayat Unions*
1. Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	Manur
	Palayamcottai	Palayamkottai
	Sankarankoil	Melaneelithanallur
	Kuruvikulam	
	Sankarankovil	
2. Cheranmahadevi	Ambasamudram	Ambasamudram
	Cheranmahadevi	
	Kadayam	
	pappakudi (at Mukkudal)	
	Nanguneri	Nanguneri
	Kalakadu	
	Radhapuram	Radhapuram
	Valliyoor	

3.	Tenkasi	Tenkasi Keelapavoor Alangulam Kadayanallur Sengottai Sivagiri	Tenkasi Sengottai Vasudevanallur.

List of Cooperative Institutions functioning under the control of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Tirunelveli District, is presented in the Table below:

S. no.	*Type of Society*	*No. of Societies (circlewise)*			
		Tirunel-veli	*Cheran-mahadevi*	*Tenkasi*	*Total*
(a)	**Central Societies:**				
1.	District Central Co-operative Bank	1	1		
2.	District wholesale Co-operative Stores	1	–	–	1
3.	District Cooperative Union	1	-	-	1
4.	Cooperative Printing Press	1	–	–	1
5.	Cooperative Training Institute	1	–	–	1
(b)	**Primary Societies:**				
(i)	Credit Societies				
6.	Co-operative Land Development Bank	3	3	2	8
7.	Cooperative Urban Bank	3	3	–	6
8.	Primary Agricultural Cooperative Banks	58	64	48	170
9.	Grower Cooperative Bank	1	–	–	1
10.	Employees Thrift and Credit Societies	44	14	11	70
11.	Urban Credit Society	–	1	–	1
ii)	Non-Credit Societies				
12.	Primary Cooperative Stores:				
	(a) Urban and Rural Cooperative Stores	8	10	8	26
	(b) Employees Cooperative Stores	5	6	3	14
	(c) Students Cooperative Stores	48	62	37	147
13.	Cooperative Marketing Societies	2	2	1	5
14.	Multipurpose Societies	1	–	2	3
15.	Labour Contract Societies	–	5	2	7
16.	Tenant Farming Societies	–	1	5	6
17.	Irrigation Societies	1	1	–	2
18.	Betel Growers Societies	–	1	–	–
	Total	179	172	120	471

The Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks provide short term loans to farmers towards cultivation expenditure to cultivate crops such as paddy, pulses, oil seeds, plantain, sugarcane etc. The loans are repayable from the sale proceeds after the harvest, over a maximum period of 15 months. These loans are provided in the form of cash and kind like fertilisers, pesticides and seeds. Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks and Land Development Banks provide medium term loans for undertaking subsidiary occupations like dairying, sheep rearing, poultry farming, establishment of Bio-Gas etc. Jewel loans are provided by Co-operative Urban Banks, Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks, Branches of District Central Co-operative Banks and in Co-operative Marketing Societies. Urban Co-operative Banks, District Central Co-operative Banks and Primary Land Development Banks provide loans to Non-Farm Sectors especially to small scale and cottage Industries. These credit Institutions provide credit facilities to small traders, artisans and petty traders, for establishing tiny cottage industries.

The Primary Land Development Banks provide long term credit for land development purposes including minor irrigation development, cultivation of plantation crops and for diversified purposes like poultry, dairying, sheep breeding, tyre carts, sericulture, etc., on schematic basis. Besides, primary land development banks are providing finance for the purposes like repair of wells, laying of pipeline, establishment of pumpsets, purchase of tractor and power tillers, construction of cattle shed, farm houses, etc., under normal programmes. The loans are sanctioned on the pledge of immovable properties. The Co-operative Marketing Societies assist their members in marketing their agricultural produce for reasonable prices and provide storage facilities to the farmers in godowns. Co-operatives have set up various types of processing units. In the District, the Co-operatives run three rice mills at V.K.Puram, Tenkasi and Sankarankoil, a ginning factory and an oil mill at Sankarankoil. Besides, the Madura Coats Employees Co-operative Stores and Sankarankoil Co-operative Stores are having oil crushing units. The Labour Contract Societies provide employment to their members by securing contract works. There are eight labour contract societies in the district. There is a Co-operative Printing Press which undertakes printing works of the Co-operatives, Government Institutions etc.,

Employment and Training

The primary functions of the State Directorate of Employment and Training include administration and control of the Employment Exchanges, coordination of their activities and to ensure uniform policies and procedures at all the employment offices. The employment wing is concerned with the employment market information programme, enforcement of the employment exchanges, vocational guidance programme, career study centre, special programmes for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes,

staff training, computerisation programme, apprenticeship vacancies, inspection of employment exchanges, occupational research and analysis, employment assistance to Myanmar and Sri Lanka repatriates, unemployment relief for the blind etc.,

Director is the head of the department. He is assisted by three Joint Directors, two Deputy Directors, six Assistant Directors, three District Employment Officers, one Publicity Officer, one Programmer and one Statistician assisting the Director in the head office. There are four regional offices each headed by a Deputy Director functioning at Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore and Chennai to control, supervise and inspect the employment exchanges located within their jurisdiction. Tirunelveli district comes under the jurisdiction of Madurai region.

District Employment Office

In Tirunelveli, the District Employment Office is located in Collector's office campus, Kokirakulam. It has jurisdiction over Ambasamudram, Sankarankovil, Nanguneri, Tenkasi, Sengottai, Radhapuram, Sivagiri, Palayamkottai and Tirunelveli taluks. Employment exchange caters to the needs of all categories of job seekers.

Employment Market Information Office

This office is serving the employers and the employment seekers located within the Revenue district of Tirunelveli district. This unit is collecting employment data from the public and private sectors in the entire district. It compiles, tabulates and analyses the data and sends them to State and Central employment directorates.

Vocational Guidance

One youth employment service / employment counselling unit is functioning in the district employment office. This unit disseminates information on occupational and training facilities, educational courses, employment trends etc., to youth and other job seeking groups. Group guidance and group discussions are arranged for the youth in the employment offices.

A special cell for physically handicapped persons has been set up to help the handicapped persons in the matter of placements / training / self employment by way of identifying suitable jobs for them in the public and private sectors. A coaching-*cum*-guidance centre for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe is functioning in the district. It renders individual and group guidance, delivers career talks and lectures and conducts special coaching classes to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.[3]

Ex-servicemen's Welfare Department

With the tradition of honouring men at arms dating back to 2000 years, a separate Directorate of Ex-servicemen's Welfare is functioning as a Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu and is entrusted with an important task of rehabilitation and resettlement of ex-servicemen and their dependants who have settled in Tamil Nadu, in addition to serving soldiers of Tamil Nadu origin who retire from services at a young age every year and return to their home state with high hopes of a comfortable resettlement.

At district level, the District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board is functioning effectively under the Presidentship of the District Collector. The Secretaries of the District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board are the Deputy/Assistant Directors of Ex-servicemen's welfare. The functioning of the organisation is scrutinized by the State Level Committees of the Tamil Nadu Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's board and Amalgamated Funds. Similarly District and Taluk Committees act as forums and solve the problems of ex-serviced people.

The Department of Ex-Servicemen's Welfare, one of the Departments under the Government of Tamil Nadu, comes under Joint Secretary to Government, Public Department who is the Ex-officio Director. He is responsible, for the rehabilitation and re-settlement of ex-servicemen and their dependants in the State. All welfare schemes for the benefits of Ex-servicemen and their families are being implemented through the District Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Board (Office of the Assistant Director of Ex-servicemen's Welfare). One Assistant Director of Ex-servicemen's welfare, works in each district to make *liaison* between military authorities and district officials in the matter of welfare of families of serving soldiers, Ex-servicemen and their dependants, rendering financial assistance to ex-servicemen and their dependants from Tamil nadu Ex-servicemen Personnel Benevolent Funds and Amalgamated Funds progressing the family/disability/service pension claims and settlement of accounts from the Military Record Offices and Re-settlement of Ex-servicemen. The administrative charges of this department are shared equally by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India.

The offices of the Assistant Director of Ex-servicemen's Welfare are the field units of the Department in the district. The District Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board in Tirunelveli district started functioning from the year 1943. Special Employment Cell with the power to sponsor ex-servicemen against reserved vacancies is functioning from 1 April 1982. During the period from 1982 to 1993, 384 ex-servicemen were placed against various jobs. One hundred and fifty ex-servicemen have been appointed as Special Police Officers in the temple protection force in

Tirunelveli district. The District Ex-services centre, Tirunelveli provides a lodging at a nominal rate and recreational facilities to Ex-servicemen who visit the district. Newspapers, Magazines and a Television set are also provided in this centre. A tailoring unit exclusively for the women dependants of ex-servicemen and services Personnel is run at Palayamkottai. The women are given training in tailoring for six months to enable them to learn tailoring and thereby to supplement their income. Stitching orders of school uniform under Noon-meal scheme and uniforms to Drivers and Office Assistants of various Government offices are undertaken by the women dependants of ex-servicemen. A total sum of Rs.46,601.30 has been paid to 22 women dependants as stitching charges. Old age, ill health or inability to produce the margin money, lumpsum grants as subsidy and loans from nationalised banks are given to help them to start some petty trade in cycle repair, eatables, maintenance of milch animals, etc., Forty ex-servicemen had availed loan of Rs.7.77 lakh in Tirunelveli. Leprosy patients, fully blinded ex-servicemen, Cancer patients and old age destitute are sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.100/- per month for their life. Jawans Bhavan in Palayamkottai Town opposite Manakalam Pillai Hospital adjoining northern side of the Tiruchendur road was constructed with the Government sanction of Rs.27,69,768/- A CSD Canteen which caters to the needs of nearly 10,000 ex-servicemen and families of service personnel belonging to Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts function at Palayamkottai.[4]

Factories Department

The Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli is appointed as an Inspector under Section 8 of Factories Act 1948 and Rules thereunder, for the effective enforcement of the various provisions of Factories Act and other allied Acts and Rules in respect of this district. He is assisted by the Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli, two Assistant Inspectors of Factories of I and II Circle of Tirunelveli, one Inspector of Factories, and one Assistant Inspector of Factories, Kovilpatti. The Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli has jurisdiction over the entire Tirunelveli District. The Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli, the Assistant Inspectors or Factories, I Circle and II Circle, Tirunelveli have jurisdiction over the entire Tirunelveli district except Sankarankovil taluk, whereas the Inspector of Factories, Kovilpatti is having jurisdiction over Sankarankovil taluk in the District.

As on 1 January 1996 there were 627 factories in the District and the estimated number of workers employed in these factories were 22454. (Males - 18818, Females - 3216, adolescent males 42 and adolescent females 378.

It is the responsibility of the Inspectors to enforce the Payment of Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act, Industrial Establishments / National and

Festival Holidays Act, Contract Labour (Registration and Abolition) Act, Equal Remuneration Act, Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (Payment of Subsistence Allowance) Act, and Tamil Nadu Industrial Establishments (Conferment of Permanent Status) Act.

Delayed payments of wages, unauthorised deductions from wages and payments less than the prescribed minimum wages, when detected during the course of inspections, the Inspectors are entitled to pursue suitable action and legal action against the erring managements. On receipt of complaints either from the workers' Union or from Industrial worker pertaining to enforcement of any of the provisions in the Acts referred to above, the Inspectors have to take immediate action on them.

The Inspectors take care of safety and welfare provisions of the workers. Serious violations of the provisions in the Factories Act, 1948, especially regarding safety aspects of workers, they are authorised to take penal action against the erring management. After investigation, of serious and fatal accidents, the Inspectors suggest the remedial measures to the managements to avoid such accidents in future, apart from taking the required penal actions against the managements. The workers are educated on Safety Courses that they have to adopt in the factories. They seriously watch child employment, employment of women workers beyond 6.00 p.m and exploitation of workers in several respects, to put the erring management in proper perspective. Group Insurance scheme through which many workers are benefited in Match and Fire work industries, is implemented by the Inspectorate.Under the directions of the Supreme Court of India, the District Committee and Welfare Fund Committee for the welfare of workers of the match and Fire Works have been constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu with District Collector and District Judge as Chairman of the Committees. The Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli is the Member-Secretary of the above Committees and the meetings of such Committees are convened periodically to monitor cases of Child employment and its consequential problems. The Inspectorate, in a nutshell, plays a vital role in solving the problems of the Industrial workers in the district.[5]

Fire Service Department

The Director of fire service is the head of the Fire Service Department. He controls and manages the fire Service Organisation in the State. For the purpose of administration the State is now divided into four regions namely Madras, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Madurai and each region is placed under the control of a Deputy Director. A divisional fire service officer is incharge of each fire service division and he controls and manages the fire stations in this district.

In the District there are nine fire stations which are situated at Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli Pettai, Tenkasi, Kadayanallur, Ambasamudram, Nanguneri, Sankarankoil, Vasudevanallur and Valliyur. The Palayamkottai office was started on 1 April 1951 and at present it has three units, an officer and 45 staff. At Tirunelveli it has been functioning from 28 February 1973. Now there are three units with a Station Officer and 39 staff. The rest of the seven offices are having single unit, and they started functioning on 10 October1988 and 28 May 1975, 1 November 1980, 18 April 1982, 15 July 1987, 19 February 1988 and 29 October 1989 respectively and each office is placed under the control of an officer. Tenkasi with15 men, Kadayanallur 16 men, Ambasamudram 10, Nanguneri 10, Sankarankoil 20, Vasudevanallur 20 and Valliyur with 20 men execute the work.

There was no fire station in Tirunelveli district before independence. Fire stations are opened in towns, taluk headquarters and Panchayat unions etc. depending on the population and how far that place is susceptible to fire. Therefore stations are involved in humanitarian service and it saves lives and property when there is a fire accident. Officers of the Fire Service Department inspect the premises licensed under the Arms Act and Rules in the city and in the mofussil. Sometime the station fire officer is appointed as Additional Inspector for the purpose of inspection of factories.[6]

Fisheries Department

Fisheries department implements various inland fisheries development schemes such as fish seeds production (in fish farm and nurseries), their stocking in waterspread area and their exploitation in viable dams, tanks and rivers. Under marine fisheries development, subsidy is given for the purchase of mechanised boats, mechanised country crafts and tackles. Technical training on modern methods is imparted to fishermen and fuel required for fishing crafts is exempted from excise duty. Free housing, fishermen group insurance, savings cum relief scheme, strengthening of fishermen cooperative societies, community halls, link road facilities, cyclone protection shelters,etc., are provided under fishermen welfare schemes.

Commissioner of Fisheries is the head with headquarters at Chennai. He is assisted by the technical, administrative personnel. There are five regions at Chennai, Nagapattinam, Coimbatore, Madurai and Thoothukkudi.

Tirunelveli district comes under the control of the Joint Director of Fisheries, (Regional) Thoothukkudi; Assistant Director of Fisheries (Regional) is the controlling authority at the district level on Inland fisheries. Tirunelveli is under the control of the Assistant Director, (Regional) at Manimuthar. The Assistant Director is assisted by the inspector of Fisheries, Sub-Inspector of Fisheries and Fisheries Overseas on the technical side and cooperative Sub-Registrars Superintendent, Senior Inspectors of Co-

operative Societies, Sub-Inspector of Fisheries, Assistants etc., on the non-technical side.[7]

Highways and Rural Works Department

The Highways and Rural Works Department maintains and improves the Government roads like State Highways, major and other district roads. Funds are distributed to the regular divisions for maintaining roads of various categories to undertake repair works and for improvement works. Repairing works like patches, pot holes, eroded berms in the Government roads are attended by employing department Gang Mazdoors and Road Inspectors. This department undertakes works like renewing, widening and improving the roads at regular intervals. Reconstruction of weak, narrow and damaged bridges and culverts and strengthening the roads are undertaken by utilising the funds allotted under Plan works by the Government. Development works in the Vasudevanallur area were done in 1993-94 under the Western Ghats Road Development Works. The Highways Department constructed a two tier over bridge of 800 metre length, the first of its kind in India by the Highways department across the railway crossing in Tirunelveli junction at a cost of Rs.70.79 lakhs and it was opened for traffic in 1972.

The Chief Engineer (H & RW) at Chennai is the head of the department. The Superintending Engineer (H & RW) at Tirunelveli is the head at the district level. He is assisted by seven Assistant Divisional Engineers with their headquarters at Palayamkottai, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Sengottai, Nanguneri, Radhapuram and Sankarankoil. The Assistant Divisional Engineers are assisted by Assistant Engineers. The Assistant Divisional Engineers(H) and Assistant Engineers (H) are the field officers of the department and Technical Adviser to the Panchayat Union. The Assistant Engineer(H) maintains and executes the work perfectly and he is the custodian of the materials of the department. The Assistant Divisional Engineer(H) is responsible for check measurement of the Government road works and Panchayat union works.[8]

Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

There is a Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Regional Office under the control of a Deputy Commissioner who has control over the Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts. There is one Assistant Commissioner at Tirunelveli, one Verification Officer at Palayamkottai and one Assistant Divisional Engineer at Palayamkottai. Temples with an annual income of Rs.10000/- and above are controlled by the Deputy Commissioner and annual income of less than Rs.10000/- are under the control of the Assistant Commissioner. To maintain the temples, a District Committee has been constituted by the Government in 1991 comprising four officials and seven non-officials. The non-officials are chosen

by the Board from the district from among the persons processing Hindu religion interested in the administration of religious institutions. The district Committee may exercise power on the constitution of Board of Trustees, inspection of property and documents, to enter the religious institutions, to scrutinise the records from trustee other than a month to take action against trustees etc.[9]

The district has 113 temples which have annual income of Rs10000/- and above and 1746 temples with annual income below Rs.10000/-.

Talukwise details of temples with the annual income of Rs.10000/- and above

1.	Tirunelveli	–	26
2.	Palayamkottai	–	8
3.	Ambasamudram	–	22
4.	Tenkasi	–	12
5.	Sivagiri	–	7
6.	Sankarankoil	–	3
7.	Nanguneri	–	6
8.	Radhapuram	–	5
9.	Sengottai	–	24
	Total		**113**

Anbu Ashramam Primary School, Palayamkottai, Sri Kanthimathi Ambal Girls Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai, Thirumalaikumaraswamy Girls Higher Secondary School, Courtallam, and Arulmigu Sankaranarayanaswamy Gomathiambal Primary School in Sankarankovil are maintained by this department. The important mutts in the district are Velakurichi Mutt, Ambasamudram, Mounasamy Mutt, Courtallam, Vanamamalai Mutt and Jear Mutt, Nanguneri. Libraries functioning in the temple premises in the district are, at Nellaiappar temple, Tirunelveli, Courtallanathaswamy temple, Courtallam, Thirumalaikumaraswamy temple, Panpoli, Kasiviswanathaswamy temple, Tenkasi, and Ilanji Kumaran Temple, Ilanji. There is a Siddha dispensary in the Sankaranarayanaswamy temple, Sankarankovil.

Labour Department

The Regional head for the Department of Labour is Deputy Commissioner of Labour under whose control falls Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Thoothukkudi Districts. The Deputy Commissioner of Labour is notified as Additional Controller of Legal Metrology, under

Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985. He is also functioning as conciliation officer under Industrial Disputes Act 1947 at Regional level. Under the control of Deputy Commissioner of Labour, three conciliation officers and three Enforcement Officers are working. The Conciliation Wing is functioning with an Assistant Commissioner of Labour and two Labour Officers. The Enforcement Wing consists of two Inspectors, 19 Assistant Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors of Labour and Stamping Inspectors. At district level, one Inspector of Labour, four Deputy Inspectors of Labour for three circles in Tirunelveli and one at Kovilpatti supported by Assistant Inspectors of Labour and Stamping Inspectors do work.

The Deputy Commissioner of Labour is a Quasi Judicial Authority under various labour enactments. Under workmen Compensation Act,1923 Payment of Wages Act 1936, and Minimum Wages Act 1948, he is exercising Judicial functions. Under Weights and Measures Act 1985, the Deputy Commissioner makes surprise inspections in shops, Petrol Pumps and Catering establishments. He is also an appellate authority under Payment of Gratuity Act. He exercises administrative control over all his subordinate offices at Regional level. Assistant Commissioners of Labour and the Labour Officers are responsible for solving the disputes relating to claim preferred by the labourers. The Inspector of Labour is an enforcement authority at district level enforcing Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Shops and Establishment Act, 1947, Minimum Wages Act, 1948 Catering Establishment Act, 1958 Motor Transport Workers' Act,1961, Beedi and Cigar Workers (C.E.) Act, 1966, Confirment of Permanent States Act, Maternity Benifit Act,Contract Lobour (R and A) Act,1972, Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977 and Weights and Measures Act, 1985 National Festival Holidays Act and Employees Provident Fund Act. Promotion of Labour Welfare and Consumer Interest are the two main objects for which the above enactments are enforced. Regulating working hours, payment of minimum wages as prescribed by Government, Payment of Wages within the time limit issuing of Service cards to the workers, compulsory rest interval, social security measures like gratuity, bonus, Employees Provident Fund and over time wages, provision of uniform to motor transport workers, medical certificate to workers in catering establishments, etc., are safeguarded by this department officials.[10]

Registration Department

The Registration Department set up in the year 1864, is headed by the Inspector-General of Registration (IAS Officer). He is assisted by Additional Law Officer in the cadre of Additional Inspector-General, Personal Assistant in the cadre of Deputy Inspector General, Accounts Officer, Deputy Inspector-General (Zones), District Registrars and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Vigilance Cell). This department is enforcing the following Acts.

1. Indian Registration Act, 1908
2. Indian Stamp Act, 1889
3. Chit Funds Act, 1982
4. Indian Partnership Act, 1932
5. Birth, Death and marriages Act, 1936
6. Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975
7. Tamil Nadu New Trading Companies Act 1972
8. a) Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936
   b) Birth and Death Act, 1954
   c) Special Marriages Act, 1954
   d) Hindu Marriages Act, 1955
   e) Indian Christian Marriage Act 1872
   f) Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Tamil Nadu State has been divided into nine zones and 47 Registration Districts. Each zone is administered by a Deputy Inspector-General of Registration. Inspectors-General are incharge of collection of revenue in their region. The Assistant Inspectors General, who are the members assist the Deputy Inspectors-General of Registration in the day-to-day administration. They are also the Registrar of Societies, Joint Registrar of Chits, Registrar of Marriages and Registrar of Firms. They inspect the Sub-Registry office, hears appeals under the Registration Act.

Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Cheranmahadevi and Tenkasi are the four Registration Districts functioning in Tirunelveli Revenue District. Each Registration District is functioning under a District Registrar. In Tirunelveli Registration District ten Sub-Registrars are functioning at Pettai, Gangaikondan, Moolaikaraipatti, Tirukkarungudi, Nanguneri, Valliyoor, Panagudi, Radhapuram and two as Administrative Joint Sub-Registrars. Each Sub Registrar office is staffed with one Sub-Registrar, an Assistant, one Junior Assistant and two Office Assistants. The internal audit is done by the District Registrar (Audit) and the loss of Revenue due to under valuation of documents are rectified by their scrutiny and site inspection of the properties covered in the Registration. Registration of documents, Special Marriages and Hindu Marriages are performed. Registration of Societies, Chit Funds, Companies, Partnership Firms, granting permission to Document Writers, Document copy writers, stamp vendors and issue of copies from the documents registered are the main duties of the Department. Inspection of lands and house buildings to determine the actual market value in coordination with the value fixed by the Public Works

Department is carried out by the Sub-Registrars. This zone occupies the fifth place in this State in the collection of stamp revenue.[11]

Rehabilitation Department

Providing rehabilitation to the repatriates and refugees from Sri Lanka is the main work of this department. At present, there is no repatriation of Indian origin from Burma. Due to ethnic violence in Sri Lanka the repatriation of Sri Lankan repatriates has been stopped temporarily from 1985.

Most of the repatriates who were already allowed in Tamil Nadu were provided jobs in the Co-operative Spinning Mills, Textile Corporations, and implementation farms. The majority of these people like to settle down with Petty trade with the help of loans received from the Government.

A senior officer (I.A.S.) looks after the rehabilitation schemes at the State Level. The District Collector is responsible for implementing rehabilitation schemes in the district. He utilises the services of the subordinate officers like the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tahsildar, Deputy Tahsildar, Revenue Inspectors, and Village Administration Officers in this task. If there is a steep increase in the incoming refugees, special staff are sanctioned, for speeding up the refugee works.

Revenue Divisional Officer / Special Deputy Collector Rehabilitation is the loan sanctioning authority. The taluk tahsildar will check up the utilisation of loan amount by the repatriates and send up proposals to the Revenue Divisional Officer for release of subsequent instalment. Business loan of Rs.7500/- is paid in two instalments of Rs.5000/- and Rs.2500/- respectively. The second instalment will be released only after the proper utilisation of first instalment.An amount of Rs.10,000/- is granted as loan for construction of House in the urban area and Rs.6000/- in the rural area. This amount is disbursed in four instalments.[12]

Social Welfare Department

Social Welfare Department is running a Government Service Home from 13 February 1978[13] in this district. The main aim of this home is to rehabilitate the destitute widows, deserted wives and women from backward classes by providing education, training in some profession and thereby make them self sufficient by engaging themselves in some work. These ladies are attending a condensed course compiling 9th and 10th standards for two years and they are taught in tailoring for one year. To attend these courses they should be in the age group of 18 to 30 years, passed VIII standard and their yearly income should not exceed Rs.12,000/-. During this period, they are provided with a stipend of Rs.150/- per month, two sets of uniforms per year and also text books and note books. To impart proper education and training there are four teachers

in this home, and a junior matron looks after the needs of the students. Apart from this a superintendent along with office staff runs this home efficiently.

The students studied here are now undergoing training as secondary grade teacher trainees in the teachers training schools. After successfully completing these courses they can work as secondary grade teachers in this department. Some of the students have completed their multipurpose health workers training and got employment in Medical and Public Health Department.[14]

Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is one of the 20 Point Programmes, evolved by the Former Prime Minister, Tmt.Indira Gandhi. The Scheme is implemented in selective blocks in the State, which is to provide positive health care to children living in remote rural areas and slums in urban areas.

In Tirunelveli district, this scheme was started on first October 1983.It aims to improve the health of the children in the age group of 0-6 and educates mothers on nutrition, immunisation, mortality etc.This project has 108 Integrated Child Development Scheme Centres at Palayamkottai, Melapalayam and Tirunelveli and looked after by the Child Development Project Officer who is assisted by a Medical Officer to check the health of the children and pregnant women. He is also vested with the responsibility of providing health care in the project area. The field level staff consists of four supervisors who monitor the supply of energy food to pre-school, and four Auxiliary Nurse Midwives who are entrusted with proper health coverage of that area, registering prenatal mothers and providing immunisation to children are their primary duties. The Anganwadi workers are engaged in giving energy food to mothers from the fourth month of pregnancy upto six months of postnatal period, and thereafter for the child upto two years. Identifying the births, conducting pre-school classes, weighing the babies, issue of midday meals, convening mothers meet on nutrition and health activities in their respective areas are their other responsibilities. The Anganwadi helpers check the pre-school drop outs and make them attend the centres. The table shows the number of beneficiaries of the scheme:

Year	*Age 0 - 6 months*	*Age 2 to 5 years*
1983	–	6528
1984	–	28312
1985	16464	25769

1986	12228	26011
1987	17820	30608
1988	18288	32208
1989	19524	42050
1990	33360	58485
1991	30600	46236
1992	31704	41797
1993	41040	42774
Total	**221028**	**380778**

Tirunelveli Integrated Child Welfare Programme

This programme was introduced in Tirunelveli from 1st of October 1983.[15] This is the 15 point in the 20 point programme introduced by the then Prime Minister Mrs. Indra Gandhi. Accordingly 108 Integrated Child Welfare Centres within Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Melapalayam municipalities limit. The main intention of this programme is to provide good nutritious food to the children so that they can grow as a healthy citizens. They also aim at providing good atmosphere for proper development of their mind and body. It also takes care to prevent nutritious deficiency diseases and thereby aims at avoiding child mortality. It also tries to educate the mothers on health hygiene and basic civic amenities required for bringing up the child property. Further it mobilises and co-ordinates activities of the various departments in this regard.

This department is engaged in providing supplementary nutrition, takes up health check up, provides immunisation facilities to various diseases, pre-school non formal education and nutrition and health education to mothers. It also involves in offering pre natal and post natal care to the children by providing immunisation injections and nutritious diets, pilio drops, triple antigen injection, B.C.G. injections etc.,[16] From 1988 to 1993, 2,21,028 children below 6 months and 3,80,778 children in the age group of 2 years benefited by this programme.

To carry out these ideas there is a child welfare programme officer and all the centres of the district are placed under his control. In this work, he is assisted by a medical officer along with four supervisors and four auxiliary midwives. Apart from these, there is one superintendent, a junior assistant, a typist, two drives, a office assistant and a night watcheman.[17]

Save these programmes, the District Social Welfare department is successfully carrying out various schemes like Moovallor Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Thirumana Nithi Uthavi Thittam, Dr. Muthulakashmi Reddi Ninaivu Mahapperu Uthavi Thittam, Tamil Nadu Government Intercaste Marriage scheme, Window daughter's Marriage Assistance Scheme, Orphan girls Marriage Assistance Scheme, Blind Marrying Normal Person Assistance Scheme, Self Employment Bank Loan subsidy to women and physically handicapped, free supply of books and note book to children of poor windows, supply of sewing machine free of cost, vocational training in typewriting and shorthand, training centres and production units, candle unit, maintenance allowance to severely handicapped etc., through Women Development Cooperative Societies in the district successfully[17A].

Tamil Nadu Adi-Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (THADCO)

The Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation, TAHDCO in short, formerly called as Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing Development Corporation, came into existence on 15th February 1974 with its Head Office at Chennai.[18] This Corporation managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of 12 members of whom 9 Directors are officers of the State Government, two are officers of Central Government and one is nominated from NSFDC, New Delhi [19]. Six Divisional Offices have been formed (with headquarters at Coimbatore, Vellore, Trichy, Villupuram, Madurai and Chennai) each under the control of an Executive Engineer, one Assistant Engineer for each district with minimum complement of staff has also been placed to execute the construction activities.

This Corporation consists of two wings, viz., Technical Wing and Economic Development Wing. The main objectives[20] of the Corporation are: i. to provide housing facilities to Adi-dravidars.ii.to undertake construction of buildings for hostels, schools, community halls, Balwadis, etc., for them and iii.to implement Economic Development Scheme and other works with a view to uplift them to raise above poverty line.

Between 1975 and 1989, 4225 houses were constructed by THADCO in Tirunelveli District. From 1989 - 1990, onwards, the task of construction of houses have been taken up by the Rural Development Department under *Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam* (Jawahar Employment Scheme.[21]

This Corporation implements, Self-Employment Scheme, Self-Employment Training Scheme in Agriculture and Allied Activities, Individual Entrepreneur Scheme and Petty Trade Scheme in Tirunelveli district.

Self-Employment Scheme envisages setting up of self-employment ventures by the Adi-dravidar beneficiaries and motivate them to stand on their own legs by improving their standard of living. Under this scheme maximum of Rs.10,000/- was sanctioned to a beneficiary of which Rs.5000/- or 50 per cent was given as subsidy by TAHDCO and the remaining 50 per cent as Bank loan.

Self-Employment Training Scheme envisages imparting training to Hindu Adi-dravidar youth both men and women for a period of six months to one year to enable them to seek self-employment ventures with the financial assistance provided by banks and subsidy by TAHDCO. The scheme helps to develop the latent potentialities and skills of the trainees to secure wage employment in industrial units. The entire cost of the training treated as subsidy, is borne by TAHDCO. The District Managers provide placement to the trained candidates in suitable ventures. In 1992-93, 150 scheduled caste beneficiaries were given training in various trades with financial commitment of Rs.2.3 lakhs.

Agriculture and Allied Activities

Of all the Economic Development schemes implemented by TAHDCO, preponderance has been given to Agriculture and Agro-oriented projects. This is done with the intention of improving the first condition of poor rural Adi-dravidars who predominantly depend on agriculture for their livelihood. TAHDCO has taken concerted efforts to provide a package of assistance to alleviate the problems experienced by small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers, directly and through various government departments and reputed voluntary organisations. Such package schemes implemented directly are,[22]

1. Supply of centrifugal pumpsets of 5 Horse Power (Diesel) at unit cost of Rs.12000/- with a subsidy of Rs.6000/- and bank loan of Rs.6000/-. During 1992-93, 25 beneficiaries received the pumpsets at a cost of Rs.1.50 lakhs.

2. In the year 1992-93, 10 persons got the benefit of obtaining Rs.15,000/- each for deepening of well with 50 per cent subsidy and the remaining as bank loan.

3. With the same benefits of subsidy and bank loan, 200 persons were supplied with Pneumatic carts with a pair of bullock each at an expenditure of Rs.15.50 lakhs, in the year 1992-93.

Similarly, a pair of plough bullocks each, worth about Rs.4500/- were supplied to 75 beneficiaries. Another item that was supplied to 75 beneficiaries in 1992-93 was bullock cart with a pair of bullocks, each costing Rs.9500/- treating 50 per cent of the amount as subsidy and the rest as bank loan. Power sprayer with bicycle (cost Rs.4500/- each) and

gem cutting-cum-polishing machine (cost Rs.15,000/- each) were supplied to five and 30 persons, respectively.

Individual Entrepreneur Scheme is the one among others to give priority for creation of assets costing upto Rs.5 lakh, to raise the standard of living of the Adi-Dravidar entrepreneurs. TAHDCO gives Rs.15,000/- as subsidy and 20 per cent of the project cost or Rs.85,000/- whichever is less as margin money loan to the entrepreneurs. The rest of the unit cost is given as bank loan carrying 4 per cent interest, through Nationalised Banks.

Petty Trade Subsidy-cum-Loan Scheme envisages providing credit linked subsidy and margin money assistance to poor Adi-dravidars, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Caste who has converted to Christianity and interest free loan to those who possess technical experience in a particular trade for starting petty self-employment ventures. Fifty per cent of the unit cost or Rs.1000/- whichever is less is given as subsidy to the Adi-dravidars and the rest is given as bank loan.

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation is a Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking and it was incorporated on 24th April 1972 with its Head Office at Chennai. The Corporation is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of 11 Directors, all of whom are Government Officers nominated by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Secretary, Co-operation, Food & Consumer Protection Department and an Indian Administrative Service Officer is the Chairman at present. The Managing Director is an Indian Administrative Service Officer on deputation to the Corporation. The Managing Director is assisted by one Senior General Manager (Co-ordination) & Secretary, one Senior General Manager (Engg.), one Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer, six General Managers, one Construction Engineer, one Vigilance Officer and supporting staff, to carry out various activities of the Corporation in the Head Office.

As regards Regions, there are 29 Regional Offices, one for each Revenue District. The Regions are headed by Senior Regional Manager or Regional Manager. The Regional Office at Tirunelveli was formed in March 1973 headed by the Regional Manager in the cadre of Deputy Collector. He is assisted by Deputy Regional Manager, Assistant Managers, Quality Inspector, Assistant Quality Inspector and other Ministerial staff in the day-to-day administration. The Unit Offices at Ambasamudram and Tenkasi are compiling the accounts at the unit level.

This Corporation is the sole agency for the procurement of commodities at the price fixed by Government of India throughout the

State from the farmers by opening various direct purchase centres during each season. All the essential commodities are supplied from the stock of this corporation to the Fair Price Shops for eventual distribution to the general public through family cards. The essential commodities are also supplied for the welfare schemes sponsored by the Government such as Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Programme, free rice to old age pensioners and to those below poverty line during festival occasions (e.g Pongal Festival) and at subsidised rates to Police, Prison and Fire Service personnel upto the rank of Inspector of Police every month which includes rice, oil, sugar, pulses, wheat and wheat products (Maida, Rava). The Government have ordered this corporation to supply dietary articles to all Hospitals and Medical Institutions under the control of the Director of Medical Education, the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and the Director of Indian Medicine at the issue price of public distribution system. So far as kerosene is concerned this corporation caters to the needs of the card holders attached to the shops run by this corporation. The wholesale co-operative societies which run fair price shops also get their requirements of essential commodities from the godowns of this corporation. Thus they supply to their fair price shops according to the indents approved by the respective Taluk Supply Officers. This Corporation run fair price shops named Amudham Departmental Stores, selling groceries, cosmetics and other consumer items at reasonable prices to arrest the rise in prices of such commodities in the open market. The Modern Rice Mill at Sankar Nagar in Thalaiyuthu is run by this corporation under the direct supervision of the Senior Regional Manager. For storing the commodities, there are nine operational godowns in Tirunelveli district which are centred at palayamkottai, Sankarankoil, Puliyangudi, Tenkasi, Alangulam, Ambasamudram, Nanguneri, Valliyoor and Tirunelveli Buffer Godown, namely at Modern Rice Mill, Thalaiyuthu and Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation, Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai.[23]

Tamil Nadu Housing Board

The Tamil Nadu Housing Board is a Government sponsored statutory authority for all housing activities in the State. The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director heads the administration of the Board and the Chief Technical Officer, viz., Chief Engineer (Housing Board) is responsible for all technical matters. This Board has under its control various divisions in the Chennai city and also it has various units at Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem, Erode, Madurai, Hosur, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Thanjavur, Villupuram and Ramanathapuram. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director is assisted by three Chief Engineers, Secretary-cum-Personnel Officer, Financial Adviser, Superintending Engineer, Senior Town Planner, Town Planner, Architect and other supporting staff. The complementary staff of the Superintending Engineers are Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Drawing

Branch Managers and other staff members. The Superintending Engineer, Madurai Circle is having Jurisdiction over Tirunelveli Housing Unit which is headed by an Executive Engineer. He implements various housing Schemes after obtaining approval from the Superintending Engineer, Madurai circle and Board Office at Chennai, according to the value of the schemes to be executed in the district.

For the world Bank aided Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project implemented by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, the Executive Engineer, Madurai TNUDP Division and the Superintending Engineer, Tiruchirappalli TNUDP Circle are the respective Officers for schemes executed in Tirunelveli District.

Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board

The Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board has been functioning from 1st April 1975 under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Labour. The Government have enacted the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Fund Act in the year 1972 for raising Labour Welfare Fund. According to this, each employee shall contribute rupees two per annum to the fund whereas their employer contribute rupees four for each employee. The money thus accumulated is utilised by the Board for welfare amenities to the workers and their children by providing scholarships for their professional education.

In Tirunelveli district, four labour welfare centres, are functioning in the places namely Tirunelveli, Pettai, Thatchanallur and Vickramasingapuram. Each welfare centre has two wings, one is a Creche for the children in the age group of $2^1/2$ years to 5 years and the other is a Tailoring unit for womenfolk of the workers. Each woman is paid a stipend of Rs.80/- per month on completion of one year training. These women appear for the examination conducted by the Director of Technical Education. Two Sewing Machines, one for the higher grade and the other for lower grade are given as prizes for their better performances. In the creche, children are given free nutritious meals, milk, fruit and egg, two sets of terry cotton uniform per year and also they can have free medical check up. Education is also imparted in English and Tamil. Thiru-vi-ka-Illam at Courtallam is a Holiday Home for industrial workers of this district which has eight double rooms and seven dormitories to accommodate 58 persons at a time. An annexure to this, a building constructed in 1993 can accommodate 35 persons.[24]

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board

The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board is having its Head Office at Madras from 1970. The regional office or circle office is at Madurai. In this District, this office started functioning from 1987. This division has got jurisdiction over four districts namely, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Kanniyakumari and Virudhunagar districts.

Accelerated Slum Improvement Scheme, Tamil Nadu Urban Development Programme, Cash Loan Scheme, Nehru Rozhgar Yojna, Land Bank Scheme, Construction of tenements and make housing on House improvement grant are the schemes implemented in this district by this department in Tirunelveli district.

Accelerated Slum Improvement Scheme aims to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers by providing basic amenities such as roads,drainages, water supply, public convenience, street lights and dustbins etc., in the slum areas in Government lands at a cost not exceeding Rs.1,500/- per family. From 1987 to 1994, 7893 members were benefited and Rs.109.11 lakhs were spent in this district.

The Tamil Nadu Urban Development Programme provides a poramboke lands with amenities to the deprived people for which they have to pay 10 percent initially as down payment and the rest they have to pay on easy monthly instalments over a period of 15 years. The World Bank has aided this scheme and is implemented only in Tirunelveli towns and in local plan areas. The land tenure is issued on 'lease cum - sales agreement' basis. From 1987 to 1994, 1033 families were benefited and Rs.27.42 lakhs were the expenditure incurred in this district.

Another scheme is cash loan. Here, the patta holders of slum areas are issued with Rs.8000/- as loan for construction of new houses. This loan is disbursed in three instalments. They have to repay this with eight percent interest at a rate of Rs.85 per month over a period of 20 years. As a security measure, the patta has to be pledged in favour of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. In this district, for the period from 1987 to 1994, 295 families got benefited and Rs.18.51 lakhs were disbursed under this.

Under Nehru Rozhgar Yojna, slum dwellers liviing with pattas in and around Tirunelveli town are given Rs.4150/- as loan for improving their hutments. Out of this Rs.1000/- are given as grant and the rest Rs.3150/- should be repaid with 12 per cent interest at a rate of Rs.45/- per month for 10 years. As a security measure, the pattas are retained by the Board. HUDCO also provides assistance to this scheme. Three hundred and fifty nine families benefited under this scheme andRs.18.57 lakhs were disbursed in this district for the period between 1987 and 1994.

Construction of tenements scheme provided 48 number of two storeyed tenement in Sankarankoil at a cost of 20.00 lakh for the scavangers working in this municipality.House Improvement Scheme helped the people living in thatched houses to covert it into a tiled house at a cost of Rs.1,500/. But this scheme has been ceased from 1989. By this scheme 5090 families were benefited from 1987 to 1989 and Rs.77. 35 lakhs were utilised for this. There is another scheme called Land Bank Scheme

which too aims at developing the plot for the people at very low price and this has been introduced at Tenkasi and Valliyur in the district from 1994.[25]

Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu

In 1956 the Government established the Madras State Sports Council to promote the proper development of sports and games in the State.[26] It helps the various Sports and Games Associations in achieving their objects and acts as a liaison between the constituted bodies and the Government. In 1962, the Government felt the need for the development of sports in the districts also and established the District Sports Council in every Revenue District. In Tirunelveli District, the District Sports Council was formed in 1968.[27] In September 1979, Directorate of Sports and Youth services was started with the aim tohave a broad base sports and games for implementation of schemes and to improve facilities in the State. In the year 1984, the Tamil Nadu State Sports Development Corporation Limited was set up and registered under the Companies Act, 1956.[28] In 1992 Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, was constituted[29] after merging the existing Directorate of Sports and Youth Services and Tamil Nadu State Sports Development Corporation Limited. This Authority is registered under Societies Act and started functioning from 14 October 1992 with the Chief Minister as the President, Education Minister as Vice President (General), Vice President (Executive) and a Member Secretary (Indian Administrative Service).

The District unit at Tirunelveli is functioning under the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, headed by the District Sports Officer. He is assisted by six coaches of various disciplines, three Markers and other staff. Nineteen Rural Sports Centres, one each in every Block are functioning under the District Sports Officer.

The District unit conducts sports events such as cycle race, women sports, catch them young, Middle school sports, All India Rural Sports, Pongal Sports (District as well as State level), National sports talent, Block level sports, Town Sports, School League and club league. Scholarships are awarded to the winners and runners who participate in various meets.

A Sports Hostel is functioning in this district.[30] There are 60 boys from three disciplines namely athletics, hockey and volleyball and staying in the hostel. They are paid with dietary charges (Scholarship) of Rs.600/- per month per student, services Rs.300/- per student per annum, Kit allowance Rs.550/- per student per annum and Machinery Equipment charges Rs.150/- per student per annum.

The Rural Sports Centre is managed by a school Physical Education Teacher. The Government supplies sports goods to this centre at free of cost.

Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation

The Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation though established in the year 1957, commenced functioning from 1958-59. This Corporation provides facilities throughout Tamil Nadu for the scientific storage of agricultural produce, seeds, fertilizers, agricultural implements and other notified commodities including corn, soya bean powder, roasted bengalgram and the like. This has resulted in additional revenue and also improved the overall occupancy position. The Corporation runs with a share capital of Rs.800 lakh. The paid-up share capital of the corporation is Rs.761 lakh of which a sum of Rs.380.50 lakhs is contributed by the Government of Tamil Nadu and Rs.380.50 lakh by the Central Warehousing Corporation a Government of India undertaking.

At present, the corporation has godowns in 64 centres mostly in rural areas in Tamil Nadu with a total capacity of 6.23 lakhs metric tonnes which includes a hired capacity of 25,143 metric tonnes. Apart from providing storage facilities, this corporation has diversified into activities like pest control operations and anti-termite treatment in places of public utility like hotels, cinema theatres, private godowns, hospitals, etc., This Corporation runs a training centre to impart training on scientific storage and preservation of stocks, which proves to be beneficial to the employees of this corporation, staff of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and neighbouring States Warehousing Corporations.In Tirunelveli district, this corporation maintains five warehouses one each in the place like Ambasamudram with a capacity of 5500 metric tonnes, Palayamkottai - 18,500 Metric tonnes, Sankarankoil - 6400 Metric tonnes, Tenkasi 6400 Metric tonnes and Tirunelveli - 18500 Metric tonnes with a total storage capacity of 55,300 metric tonnes.[31]

Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD)

The TWAD Board[32] was constituted in 1971 to investigate and execute various water supply and drainage schemes in Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Village Panchayats in the State except Chennai Metropolitan area. The motto that the Board carries is to provide safe protected drinking water to the rural and urban people in Tamilnadu and to execute the drainage schemes to the urban area in a phased manner. The Board has taken up the task of providing water supply to all the rural habitations with financial assistance from the state and central governments. To implement major water supply schemes in the urban area, the Board arranges loans from Life Insurance Corporation of India or World Bank and executes the schemes on behalf of the local bodies. The schemes, after completion, are handed over to the respective local bodies for further maintenance. The combined water supply schemes, governing one or more Panchayats are maintained by TWAD Board itself, for which the Board collects maintenance charges from the concerned local bodies.

The Water Supply and Drainage Scheme in Tirunelveli District is the concern of the Superintending Engineer who is in control of both Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts. The Superintending Engineer is assisted by two Executive Engineers for execution of schemes. Under the control of each Executive Engineer, a team of engineers consisting of Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers functions. One Executive Engineer is under the control of Rural Water Works in Tirunelveli district and another Executive Engineer is under the control of urban works for both Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts. Of the two Executive Engineers in Kanniyakumari district one Executive Engineer is in control of maintenance of combined water supply scheme in both Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts.

One more Executive Engineer placed at Tirunelveli looks after the Project Formulation works for Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, Thoothukkudi and Virudhunagar districts. He is under the direct control of the Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Southern Region, Madurai.

In addition to the regular Superintending Engineer at Tirunelveli, there is one more Superintending Engineer at Valliyoor who looks after the Special Project Works in Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts. At present the combined water supply scheme, Nanguneri, Thisayanvilai,Sathankulam, in Tirunelveli district and Nagercoil the combined water supply scheme in Kanniyakumari district are under the control of the Superintending Engineer, Valliyoor. He is assisted by two Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers.

In Tirunelveli district, there are 19 Panchayat Unions. The total number of rural habitations in the district were 1805. The total Rural population was 15,35,890. Of the rural habitations 1109 were fully covered and 696 were partially covered.

The Tirunelveli Corporation comprises three former municipalities namely, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Melapalayam Municipalities and the former Thachanallur Town Panchayat. The three municipalities have already been provided with Water Supply Scheme. For Palayamkottai, water supply improvements scheme which is under execution was sanctioned for Rs.663 lakhs.

The five Municipalities in the district namely Kadayanallur, Puliankudi, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi and Sengottai have already been provided with Water Supply Scheme long back. Due to the expansion of town and increase in the Urban population water supply improvement scheme have to be provided to the municipalities. For Sankarankoil municipality an improvement scheme was completed in the year 1994-95. For Tenkasi municipality an improvement scheme has been sanctioned for Rs.10.66 crores. For Kadayanallur and Puliyankudi municipalities combined water supply scheme has been formulated for an amount of Rs.50.36 crores to install.

There are 22 Urban Town Panchayats in Tirunelveli district. All the 22 Urban Town Panchayats have been provided with water supply schemes. For Thisayanvilai and Nanguneri Town Panchayats combined water supply scheme is under execution and the scheme is under the control of Superintending Engineer, Project Circle, Valliyoor. Surandai Town Panchayat is included in the Kadayanallur. Puliyankudi combined Water Supply scheme for which the detailed estimates are under preparation.

The number of Rural Town Panchayats in the district is 16, water supply scheme have already been provided for 12 Rural Town Panchayats. Schemes for three rural town panchayats (Sivagiri, Ayikudi and Vasudevanallur) are under execution. For S.Pudur Rural Town Panchayat, investigation works are under progress.

Water Supply Schemes for 155 rural habitations were completed in the year 1997-98. Of these 114 were under Regular Programme, 35 under Anna Marumalarchi Thittam and six under Rejuvenation Programme. The expenditure included on this was Rs.555 lakhs.

Three Urban schemes costing Rs.359.73 lakhs were completed in the year 1997-98 in the district.

Notes and References

1. Report from the District Adi Dravidar Welfare Officer, Tirunelveli, dated 22 July 1993
2. Report from the District Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Officer, Tirunelveli, dated 28 September 1993.
3. Report from the Director of Employment and Training, Chennai, dated 5 January 1996.
4. Report from Assistant Director, Office of the Ex-Service men's Welfare, Tirunelveli district, Palayamkottai, dated 12 October 1993.
5. Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Tirunelveli, dated 3 March 1998
6. Report from Divisional Fire Officer, Tirunelveli, dated 10 September 1993 and 27 March 1994.
7. Report of the Commissioner of Fisheries, Madras, dated 19 September 1995.
8. Report of the Divisional Engineer, Highways and Rural Works, Tirunelveli, dated 1 December 1995.
9. Report from the Deputy Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, Tirunelveli, dated 10 May 1996.
10. The Secretary, Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board, Madras, dated 13 August 1993.
11. Report from District Registrar, District Registration Department, Tirunelveli, dated 8 October 1993.
12 Report from the Commissioner of Rehabilitation, Madras, dated 17 March 1994.
13. G.O.Ms.No. 2, Social Welfare Department, dated 2 January 1978
14. Report from the Superintendent, Government Service Home (High School), Social Welfare Department, Tirunelveli district, dated 26 January 1994.
15. Report from the Project Officer, Integrated Child Welfare Programme, Tirunelveli, dated 13 August 1999.
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17. Report from the Social Welfare Officer, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Scheme, Chepauk, Chennai-5 dated 7 October 1994.

17A. G.O.No.1856, Social Welfare, dated 28 June 1983

18. G.O.Ms.No.80, Social Welfare Department, dated 5 February, 1974
19. G.O.Ms.No.100,. Social Welfare Department, dated 14 February 1974.
20. Report from the Joint Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Ltd., Chennai, dated 29 August 1993.
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22. *Ibid.*
23. Report from the Company Secretary, Tamil Nadu Civil Service Corporation, Madras, dated 30 July 1993.
24. Report of the Secretary, Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board, Madras, dated 13 August 1993.
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27. G.O.Ms.No.967, Education and Public Health Department, dated May 1963.
28. G.O.Ms.No.289, Education Science and Technology Department dated 16 March 1984.
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30. G.O.Ms.No.1846, Education Department, dated 8 September 1980. Report of the Member Secretary, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, Chennai dated 7 January 1998
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32. Report from Chairman, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, dated 7 October 1994.

CHAPTER - 13

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

Among the many organs of the administrative machinery, the Local Self Government may be considered the most vital one as, through which the Government can have direct contact with the people. It is a mirror that reflects the feelings of the people and in ancient days the monarchs used this to feel the pulse of the people.Local Self- Government is found in our administrative system from ancient times and many evidences are there to support this fact. For example, the inscriptions bring out interesting details on the economic and social life of the village and of the part played by the assembly in it.

Development of Local Self-Government during the ancient period

The subject of Local Self Government in ancient India is a fascinating one in respect of historical and practical aspects. We owe largely to the elaborate system of local government for the preservation of integrity, independence and individuality of Hindu culture, despite the world disorders and catastrophic political movements to which that culture was frequently exposed in the course of the country's history.This provided a sort of Noah's ark in which the vital elements of Hindu civilisation were safely protected against the overwhelming political deluges that swept over the country from time to time. As Sir GeorgeBirdwood has truly remarked "India has undergone more religious and political revolutions than any other country in the world, but the village communities remain in full municipal vigour all over the peninsula. Scythians, Greeks, Saracens, Afghans, Mongals in ancient times and medieval times and Portuguese, Dutch, English, French and Danes in modern times came to our country and set up their successive domination in the land, but the religion,culture and institutions in villages were not affected by their coming and going and they remained as a rock by the rising and falling of the tide.[1] This is indeed the reflection of the earlier expression of Sir Charles Metcalfe.

In connection with the administration of village affairs, frequent references were made to four terms Manram, Podiyil, Ambalam and Avai which occur frequently and all these four terms mean the same i.e. *Common Place*. The Ambalam and Podiyil served the dual purpose of shelter for gods and shelter for village elders to deal with secular activities.

Development under Pallavas

It was in the Pallava kingdom for the first time, that the machinery of rural administration and local self government began to take shape. By the days of the Pallavas, the organisation in-charge of the affairs of the township in which the owners of lands were predominantly Brahmins had

taken a definite shape and was known as the Sabha or the Mahasabha. The Sabha was the highest authority in the local administration of the village and rural areas. The Sabhas created certain committees for looking after the administration of tanks, cultivable lands, roads, etc., Uttaramerur inscription on the Pallava king Dandi Varman in the 9th year of his reign made reference to the village Variyam of the Pallava period. Apart from these, there were other committees like Ganam and Nattar and Urar. Ganam refers to a group of people in-charge of administration. Nattar is the assembly of the larger administrative unit called Nadu. Indeed Nattar was a constituent assembly that seemed as a check to provincial autocracy. The urar is the assembly of the Ur. It is a gathering of local people in the village which met together and managed business at regular intervals without formal rules. The urar is presumably a successor of the earlier manram.

Development of Village Administration under the Cholas

The age of the Cholas was the golden age of local institutions. The villages were the basic units of administration. During the Chola period, the villages were the real centres of social and political life and the principal nursery of social and political virtues. The village administration system under the Cholas can be said to be the contribution of Tamil Nadu to the world civilization in politics.

Development of Village Administration under Pandyas

During the Pandyan period, there was a sound system of local administration which is akin to the system existed during the Pallavas and later Chola days. An inscription of Maranchedaiyan at Manur in Tirunelveli district gives us insight into the working of the autonomous village assembly in the district especially in that Brahmadeya village.The inscription says that the Mahasabhaiyar of Mananilainallur, a Brahmadeya in Kalakkudinadu having proclaimed a general body meeting by beat of drum and having assembled in the sacred govardhana made the following resolution (Vyavasthai) for conducting deliberations in the meetings of the mahasabhaiyar of the village.[2]

This inscription contains a record of rules for membership in the Sabha of the village.[3] It is stated that of the children of shareholders in the village only one who is well behaved and has studied the Mantra brahmana and one dharma may be on the village assembly to represent the share held by him in the village and only one of similar qualifications may be on the assembly for a share purchased, received as present or acquired by him as stridhana through his wife; (2) that shares purchased presented or acquired as stridhana could entitle one, if at all, only to full membership in the assemblies; and in no case will quarter, half or three quarter membership be recognised; (3) that those who purchased shares must select only such

Manur Inscriptions

men to represent their shares on the assembly, as have critically studied a whole veda with its parisistas;4) that those who do not possess full membership as laid down by rule cannot stand on any committee (Variyam) for the management of village affairs; 5) that those satisfy the prescribed conditions should in no case persistently oppose by saying "nay, nay" to every proposal brought up before the assembly; and, 6) that those who do this together with their supporters will pay a fine of five Kasus on each item and still continue to submit to the same rules.[4]

No idea can be gathered from this inscription as to the circumstances under which the above rules were made with regard to the constitution of the sabha. But, from the general reading of it, it may be inferred that at one stage in its history some new obstructionist methods were adopted by some members of the assembly with lesser qualification, and thereby, the smooth and harmonious working of the institution became difficult. Therefore, the above rules appear to have been made by the sabha according to which only persons who possessed high qualifications by virtue of their property, character and learning were allowed to take part in the proceedings of the assembly and particularly in the executive work. Very probably when the assembly was not in session, its work in relation to particular matters was entrusted to the Variyars who were apparently chosen for the purpose. Failure to observe the new rules, and wilful obstruction to the work of the sabha were made punishable. Thus, the details contained in the inscription regarding its constitution show that the members of the Sabha in the village were exclusively the shareholders of land in the village. The term used in the record to denote the members of the Sabha acting as a body is Sabnaiyam. The same word is used in two other early inscriptions - one at Nallimangalam and the other at Ilamperunkay-Irukkai.[5]

Like the Manur Sabha, village assemblies were functioning in several other villages in the Pandya Country during the 8th and 9th century A.D. An inscription from Tiruchendur tells us that the king Varaguna Maharaja distributed among sixteen villages a large endownment he made to the local temple for meeting the cost of service in the temple throughout the twelve months of the year. The total endowment consisted of 1,400 gold kasus and these kasus were to be a permanent endowment, only the interest being spent for the purposes specified. The rate of interest is fixed at two kalams of paddy per annum on each kasu.

A penalty was levied for the default. Apart from the penalty, a heavy fine of twenty five gold kasus was also levied by the same king and these amounts were left in the hands of the assembly at Ambasamudram with the direction to utilise it properly.

A permanent endowment to a tune of 580 kalams of paddy per annum, with an interest of two kalams of paddy per annum was offered by

the assembly to the temple of Tiruppottudaiya Bhattarar at Ilangokkudi. This endowment was made to meet the cost incurred for offering pujas for four times a day. The inscription further states that the servants of the temple and a committee of the assembly must also watch that this expenditure was properly made.

The members of the sabha of the Ilamperunkay Irukkai received an investment of 120 kasus from Varaguna Maharaja and promised to measure out ghee for the local temple daily from the interest on the amount. If they failed to do so they should undertake to pay individually and as a body double the quantity in default, besides a fine to the royal officers.[6] Likewise, the sabha of Nallimangalam undertook to supply ghee to the temple in lieu of interest on money received. If it failed to do so, the Panmahesvara of the temple could ask for a double sum of the dues besides a fine from the sabhaiyar both as a body and as individual persons.[7]The sabha of Seranmadevi Chaturvedimangalam remitted taxes on hands for conducting a sandi called after the king Kulasekara, and instituted by the official Venadurdaiyan. The same assembly ordered the temple authorities to fix the boundary stones on the occasion of sale of land to the temple by an individual on receiving money from Tirunelveli Alagapperumal alias Vira Pandya Vandiya Deva. We learn about the existence of a nirvaha sabhai or executive committee of a village in the thirty first year of Maravarman Kulasekhara.[8] The non-Brahmadeya village had another type of assembly called 'Ur' which functioned, more or less, on similar lines.[9]

Another type of village administration is known as 'Nagaram' functioned in the cities where the merchants lived. The merchant guilds formed themselves as village administrative body and carried out the administrative functions in that place. Above these existed Nadu which consisted of several Urs and Chaturvedimangalams. The people of the Nadu assembled as the administrative body. It is referred to as Nadaisaindai nattom. The members of the Nadu were called Nattar. Though the Nadu could have originated as geographical rather than administrative unit, later they must have assumed an administrative character.[10] Thus, the village administration under the Pandyas indicates that the village assemblies were functioning actively in Pandimandalam just like their counter-parts in the Chola country.

Development under the Muslims and Nayaks rule

The periods of the Muslim rule and that of the Nayaks witnessed more and more centralised forms of Government, which could not naturally foster independent village assemblies. Though village assemblies did continue to survive, they were considerably weakened during these periods. The Poligar system and subsequently the ryotwari settlement made the functioning of village assemblies, superfluous. The indigenous village assemblies lost their effectiveness in local administration and almost

disappeared from the administrative scene of the country. The metamorphosis brought about by the introduction of the ryotwari system and the individualism generated by the changed land management in the minds of the villagers, rendered the collective functioning in the village life a matter of past.

Position of Local Self-Government under the British

The British period, during which local self-governing institutions completely went out of action, also witnessed a revival of them, in a much modified form and what is more as a matter of necessity. The famous Ripon Resolution on Local Self-Government pronounced....

> "The task of administration is yearly becoming more arduous as the country progresses in civilization and material prosperity".[11]

The responsibilities for road maintenance, education, drinking water supply and so on coupled with the powers to raise the required funds, were gradually passed on from the hands of Collector to the local boards.

The administration of public affairs by local bodies dates in this district from the passing of Local Fund Act of 1871. The district was divided into two circles, Tinnevelly (Tirunelveli) and Sermadevi (Cheranmahadevi) and a board was constituted for each. The Tinnevelly circle comprised the six taluks of Tinnevelly, Tenkarai (Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur), Ottapidaram (now Koilpatti), Sankaranainarkoil and the two taluks, viz., Sattur and Srivilliputtur which were transferred to Ramanathapuram district in 1910. The rest three taluks namely, Ambasamudram, Nanguneri and Tenkasi formed Sermadevi circle. The Collector was the president of both the boards, the divisional officers of both the headquarters of the two boards were its Vice-Presidents. The members - both official and non-official, were nominated. In 1884, the next Local Boards Act was passed and the two boards were amalgamated and District Board was created in 1885. In 1886, taluk boards were created. District Board had jurisdiction over the whole revenue district and the areas controlled by the municipalities were excluded from this area. It was composed of the Collector as ex-officio President and 28 members were elected and nominated and half of the members were elected by taluk boards. The jurisdiction of the taluk boards was conterminous with the revenue divisions. The divisional Officer was in all cases the ex-officio president. The half the number of members of the taluk boards were elected and the rest were nominated. The power of electing a vice-president was granted to the taluk boards in 1908 and the system of electing a proportion of members by popular vote was introduced in 1909.

Provision for the formation of union panchayats was made in 1886. There were nearly 31 such bodies during 1914 the largest number to be

found in any single district of the Presidency. All the members and presidents were appointed by nomination to this office except in Sermadevi panchayat where they were elected.

During 1930, the area included in the Revenue Taluks of Anjengo and Thangaseri which were under the Malabar District Board were excluded from that Board and added to the jurisdiction of this District Board,[12] from 1st April 1928. The territorial jurisdiction of the taluk boards and their electoral divisions as well as their headquarters remained unaffected during the year 1928-29.

The number of Union Boards continued to be 31 as in the previous year. There was no change in the jurisdiction of the Union Boards but for the exclusion of Vadakkur and Vadakkupacheri hamlets from the limits of the Pattamadai Union Board.

The Madras Local Boards Act 1920, while repealing the Act of 1884, considerably liberalised the structure of the local boards. It enabled the district boards to elect their Presidents and Vice-Presidents if authorised by Government.

The number of Village Panchayats sanctioned upto the end of the previous year 1927-1928 was 85. The Constitution of 20 new panchayats and the abolition of nine panchayats were sanctioned during the year bringing the total number of panchayats at the end of the year to 96. The control of 26 panchayats was transferred to the Collector from the Registrar General of panchayats.[13]

The maximum strength of the District Board was 40, excluding the President, of whom 10 were nominated members. The total strength of the Taluk Boards was 96 and the proportion of the elected and nominated members thereof was 3:1. The sanctioned strength of the Union Boards was 410 of whom 323 were elected.

There was one Muhammadan and one Adi-Dravida member in the District Board and eight Muhammadan and three Adi-Dravida members were in the four Taluk Boards. In the case of Union Boards, there were 62 Muhammadans and 23 Adi Dravida members. There was a nominated lady member on the District Board and another on the Ambasamudram Union Board. All the members of the local board in the district elected the Presidents except the Sivagiri Union Board which was dissolved during the year1928-29.

The Madras Local Boards Amendments Act was passed in 1934 and all the Taluk Boards were abolised from 1st April 1934 since it was felt that boards were a strain on the economy of the Government . The District Boards took over the functions of the Taluk Board. Due to the increase in work, the District Boards were bifurcated. The North Tirunelveli

and South Tirunelveli District Boards, into which the Tinnevelly District had been bifurcated with effect from the 5th January 1937, were amalgamated into one Tinnevelly District Board with effect from 1st August 1938.[14]

The number of Major Panchayt Boards at the end of the year 1937-38 was eight in the area of North Tinnevelly District Board and 20 in the area of the South Tinnevelly District Board.The said number of Panchayats continued to function in 1938-39. The hamlet of Courtalam and the village of Melagaram which were excluded from the jurisdiction of the Tenkasi Panchayat Board, were formed into a separate Panchayat known as "The Courtalam Panchayat".[15]

At the end of the year 1937-38, there were 49 Minor panchayats in the area of the North Tinnevelly District Board and 38 panchayats in the area of the South Tinnevelly District Board, thus making a total of 87 panchayats in the District. Including the Courtalam Panchayat newly formed out of the Tenkasi Major panchayat board, the total number of Minor panchayats at the end of the year was 88.

The sanctioned strength of the North District Board was 21 and that of the South District Board was 32 including one co-opted woman member. The sanctioned and actual strength on the 31st July 1938 with which date the bifurcated boards created to function were as follows:

		Non reserved seats	*Reserved Seats for*			
			Muslims	*Indian Christians*	*Secular*	*Woman*
North Board	Sanctioned Strength	17	1	1	1	1
	Actual strength	16	2	1	1	1
South Board	Sanctioned Strength	24	2	2	3	1
	Actual Strength	19	3	5	3	1

All the elected members of each of the two boards became members of the amalgamated Tinnevelly District Board and the co-opted lady member vacated her seat with effect from 1st August 1938 with reference to the provisions of Sec. 8(1) of the Madras Local Boards Amendment Act XI of 1937.

In September 1938, the Government ordered a revision of the already existed division of the district into electoral circles [16] and the allocation of the seats contained therein with effect from the date of the next ordinary

elections. Ordinary elections for the District Board were held in October and November 1938 and the term of the newly constituted Board commenced from 1st November 1938. The number of electoral circles and the number of seats reserved for the various communities as previously existed and the numbers as per revised arrangements as ordered by Government and the actuals on the 31st March 1939 are noted below:-

	No.of electoral circles	*Total strength*	*Non-reserved seats*	*Reserved seats for Muslims*	*Indian christians*	*Scheduled caste*	*woman*
As previously existed	41	52	41	3	3	4	1
As revised	39	52	39	3	4	4	2
Actuals as on 31.3.1939	39	52	36	4	6	4	2

North District Board and South District Board with their Presidents and Vice-Presidents functioned till July 1938. Consequently, as a result of amalgamation, of the North Tinnevelly and South-Tinnevelly District Boards with effect from 1st August 1938, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the said Boards vacated their offices under Sec.8(VI) of the Madras Local Board Amendment Act XI of 1937 and the Collector of Tirunelveli, became ex-officio member and President of the amalgamated Tirunelveli, District Board on and from 1st August 1938. He continued to hold this position till the ordinary elections of the members of the amalgamated Board were held. Later, President and Vice-President were elected unanimously and they assumed charges on 8 December 1938 and held this post till 31 March 1939.

The constitution of major panchayat boards also underwent alteration in certain cases. The Panchayat Boards of Ambasamudram, Tachanallur and Veeravanallur which had been superseded for maladministration, were reconstituted with effect from 1st July 1938. General elections were held in the remaining Panchayat Boards, except Puliangudi which was under supersession. The sanctioned and actual strength of the Panchayat Board on 31 March 1939 are compared with the corresponding figures for the previous year.

		Total	Non-reserved	Reserved for Muslims	Indian Christians	Scheduled Castes
1937-38	Sanctioned strength	387	352	2	3	30
	Actual strength	334	220	71	13	30
1938-39	Sanctioned strength	401	349	12	10	30
	Actual strength	374	235	76	25	37

The decrease in the actual strength on 31 March 1939 as compared with the sanctioned strength was due to 16 seats on the Puliangudi Panchayat Board being kept vacant owing to its supersession and 11 seats having been vacant in the Panchayat Boards of Pattamadai, Tachanallur, two seats each, Tenkasi, Tiruchendur, and Udangudi, one each and Vasudevanallur four seats. All the Twenty seven Panchayat Boards except Puliangudi had elected presidents on 31st March 1939 and in the 26 Panchayat Boards, Tenkasi had elected Vice-Presidents. The affairs of the Puliangudi Panchayat Board were administered by a Special Officer.

Regarding the Minor Panchayats, eighty seven out of eighty eight had elected Presidents and Vice-Presidents. The Courtalam Panchayat which was separated from the Tenkasi Panchayat Board was under the control of the District Panchayat Officer as the numbers had not been elected.[17]

Due to World war-II, the system of nomination to the respective boards was introduced once again. When the Congress party captured power in 1946, this system was abolished and the Collector was appointed as Special Officer till fresh elections. In 1949, fresh elections were held and new District Board was constituted.

Post-Independence Progress of Local Self-Government

In 1950, the Madras Village Panchayats Act was passed and this warranted a re-adjustment of the District Boards. The Committee constituted for this purpose in 1951 under the Chairmanship of Kutti Krishna Menon recommended in its report in 1953, the abolition of District Boards.

District Development Councils, Panchayat Unions and Panchayats

The Constitution of India has envisaged the creation of village panchayats as autonomous units of Local-Self Government. In pursuance of this objective, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Village Panchayats Act of 1950 which facilitates constitution of a panchayat for each village with a population of 500 and above with elected members and with a detailed list of civic functions to be handled by them. District Boards had no control over the panchayats which were administered through the Inspector of Local Boards.

The period between 1950 and 1958 witnessed historically important changes in the development of rural areas. National Extension Services and Community Development Projects were organised to cover every part of India. Community Development blocks were constituted at the rate of 66,000 to 1,00,000 people per block. An integrated development of the community as a whole, covering its social, economic and cultural needs was sought to be implemented through the National Extension Services and Community Development Programme. Under these schemes, a horizontally co-ordinated team of developmental officers functioned at the block level. The Balwantrai Metha Committee on Democratic Decentralisation (1957) advocated the integration of the community development set up with a popularly elected Panchayat Samithi to bring about local participation in developmental activities.

The Madras Panchayats Act 1958 was thus enacted constituting panchayats at the village level and panchayat unions at the Block level. The District Boards were abolished and in their place advisory bodies called District Development Councils were brought into existence. The most significant change brought about by the Madras Panchayats Act 1958, was the entrustment of production functions to the elected local bodies which till then were performing only municipal functions. The entrustment of such production functions as agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operation, irrigation, village industries, etc., to these bodies necessitated the appointment of various categories of technical staff to serve them.

Thus, it may be seen that the District Development Councils came to play a more dynamic role in the place of the erstwhile Planning Board. The vastness of the Tirunelveli district necessitated its division into two development districts, viz., Tirunelveli North and Tirunelveli South. The Government have notified the areas of the District Development Council. This District Development Council Act, 1958, was brought into force with effect from 1st December 1959. The District Development Councils were formally brought into existence from 1st January 1960. After the formation of the Councils, the areas were renotified statutorily fixing their area of jurisdiction.

National plans gave impetus to many developmental activities and it was felt that the people must be involved in all these developmental activities. At that time, for implementing these activities, there were District Planning Boards, Block Advisory Committees and other adhoc advisory committees. These had only resulted in the mere duplication of work. To rectify this and to make it more effective District Development Councils were created and in these Councils, proper representation of all the Panchayat Unions and Municipalities were made, so that people, through their representatives, could participate in the functioning of the Council.

The composition of the District Development Council is as follows. i) The District Collector is the Ex-Officio Chairman (ii) Members of Parliament of the district - both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is elected from the district and elected Members of the State Legislative Assembly chosen to represent a constituency which consists of or comprises or relates to the district or any portion thereof or who reside in the district. (iii) Elected Members of Council of States representing the State of Tamil Nadu. (iv) Nominated Members of the Parliament of this State and of the State Legislature, who have intimated their desire to serve as Members of the District Development Council. (v) All Chairman of Panchayat Union and Municipal Councils in the district. (vi) Presidents of the Co-operative Central Banks in the district. (vii) Such Gazetted Officers of the Government connected with planning and execution of development schemes in the district as are nominated by the Government.

In addition to the members referred to above, the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Bhoodan Yagna Board, any official of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board or any other Board or Committee constituted under any law for the time being in force nominated by the Government and the President of a Town Panchayat in the district nominated by the Collector in rotation are also the members of the District Development Council. The District Development Councils, however, do not have any executive or legislative functions.

The implementation of the Madras Panchayats Act 1958, involved three main administrative operations which may be distinguished from one another. They are (i) completion of panchayat coverage, (ii) Panchayat Union Constitution, and, (iii) Rural Development Council. The first operation, completion of Panchayat coverage commenced on or before the 31st December 1960. With the completion of this operation, all the rural areas in the Madras State Government were covered with panchayats. The administrative operation referred to as "Panchayat Union Constitution" began when the preliminary notification was published by Government (under sub section 1 of section 7 of the Act) specifying the blocks where Panchayat Unions were proposed to be constituted. Consequently, the Panchayats were constituted in all the non-panchayat areas and the Panchayat Union Councils were formed.

Inauguration of Panchayat Unions in Tirunelveli District

First batch of Panchayat Unions were inaugurated on 2nd October 1960. Seventy five Panchayat unions were formed in the entire Tamilnadu. Four Panchayat unions, namely, Tuticorin (Tuticorin firka), Koilpatti (Koilpatti firka), Sankarankoil (Sankarankoil firka), Kurvikulam (Pazhamkottai and Thiruvengadam firkas) in the North Tirunelveli Development district and three panchayat unions, namely, Cheranmahadevi (containing part of Melaseval, part of Cheranmahadevi and part of Ambasamudram firkas), Pappakudi (part of Ambasamudram, part of Cheranmahadevi and Pappakudi firkas), Manoor (Madavakurichi), Gangaikondan and Tirunelveli firkas) in the South Tirunelveli Development district were inaugurated in Tirunelveli district.

The second batch of panchayat unions were inaugurated on 14th April 1961. In Tirunelveli District, the following seven panchayat unions in the North Tirunelveli Development district, namely, Vasudevanallur (Vasudevanallur, Sankarankoil firkas), Mela Neelidanallur (Neelidanallur, Sankarankoil firkas), Ottapidaram (Ottapidaram firka), Pudur (Masarpatty firka), Karungulam (Karungulam and Vallanad firkas), Sattankulam (Sattankulam firka), Udangudi (Udangudi firka) were created and in South Tirunelveli Development district, the following four panchayat unions, namely, Valliyur (Valliyur, Palavur firkas), Radhapuram (Tisayanvilai Radhapuram), Alangulam (Alangulam), Tenkasi (Tenkasi and Pampoli firkas) were inaugurated.[19]

The third batch of panchayat unions were inaugurated on 2nd October 1961 which covered the rest of the rural area of the State. In the Tirunelveli district, Palayamkottai, Kilapavoor, Kadayanallur, Kadayam, Ambasamudram, Nanguneri, Kalakad, Kayathar, Vilathikulam, Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur, Alwarthirunagari were created as panchayat unions.[20]

On 20, October, 1986, Tirunelveli District was bifurcated into Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district and V.O.Chidambaranar district.[21] Accordingly, nineteen panchayat unions, namely, Palayamkottai, Manur, Sankarankoil, Kauverikulam, Melaveelithanallur, Cheranmahadevi, Ambasamudram, Kadayam, Pappakudi, Nanguneri, Kalakad, Valliyoor, Radhapuram, Tenkasi, Kadayanallur, Alangulam, Keelapavoor, Sengottai and Vasudevanallur fall within the jurisdiction of Tirunelveli- district and the rest fourteen panchayat unions are placed in the V.O.Chidambaranar district.

The election for the local bodies was held in Tamil Nadu in February 1986. Previously, the Chairmen were elected indirectly by the members of the panchayat union Councils. It is in this election, held in September 1986, that for the first time in the history of the Local Bodies election in Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1958 was amended to provide

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Map Reproduced as per the information furnished by the Indentor.

for the direct election of panchayat President and Union Chairman and the political parties were allowed to sponsor their candidates.

The Village and Town Panchayats were headed by the Presidents. Previously, the Presidents of Village Panchayats were elected by the Members of respective Panchayats who were elected from their wards. The Presidents are now elected by the people directly. Since the election for the local bodies held in 1967, Vice-Chairmen for each village and Town Panchayat were elected from among the members of the Council. There are also certain wards reserved in each panchayat for being filled up by members belonging to SC/ST and also by women representatives.

The enactment of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act has naturally aroused hopes of realising *gram swaraj*, i.e., village self-government, which was the dream of the leaders of Freedom Struggle. But, judging by the way quite a few other basic objectives of the Constitution have been pursued during the last four decades, one will be justified in keeping one's fingers crossed over the prospects of Panchayat Raj, as the third tier of governance, becoming a reality.

The elections will be on party basis except in respect of panchayat ward members. The panchayat electoral rolls would be the same as the current electoral rolls for the State Legislative Assembly Constituencies, but, arranged and reprinted Panchayat ward-wise. Hence, all the voters included in the State Assembly electoral rolls would be automatically included in the panchayat electoral rolls for the State Legislative Assembly Constituencies, but arranged and reprinted panchayatward-wise. Every voter would have to exercise his franchise in favour of a panchayat ward member, panchayat president, union council member and district council member.

Apart from these four direct elections, there would be seven indirect elections. Village panchayat ward member will elect their Vice-Presidents. The presidents of village panchayats will elect their representative member in the panchayat union council. The panchayat union Chairman will elect their representative in the district panchayats. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will elect their representatives in the district panchayats. The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of panchayat union councils will be elected by the district panchayat members. The percentage of reservation for SC/ST, backward and mostbackward classes and women in these elections would range between 70 and 75 percent based on the population ratio. One third of all the seats would be reserved for women. Ward reservation had been done on a scientific basis taking into consideration, the numerical strength of scheduled caste members in each and every village, so as to avoid complaints of mal-practice or discrimination. On the mandatory setting up of a district planning committee under the Nagarpalika Act, for

the time being, it was not being considered and the present development councils would take care of the needs.

Tirunelveli district is divided into three Revenue Divisions, namely, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Cheranmahadevi. There are ten revenue taluks, namely, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Sankarankoil, Tenkasi, Sengottai, Sivagiri, Nanguneri, Radhapuram, Ambasamudram and Veerakeralampudur. This district consists of one Development district, two Development divisions and one District Rural Development Agency. It has 628 revenue villages with 435 village panchayats. There are 19 panchayat unions, 2 townships. Apart from these, there are 38 town panchayats, nine municipalities and one municipal township. The total population of the district as per 1991 Census, was 25,01,832. Out of this, 68 per cent of the population was in rural area and 32 per cent was in urban areas. The density of population was 368 per sq.km.[22]

Out of nineteen panchayat unions, three panchayat unions have population below 65,000, four panchayat unions have population between 65001 to 85000, another four panchayat unions are having population between 85001 and 1,00,000 and the rest eight panchayat unions' population was above 1,00,000. Regarding the Financial status of the panchayat unions in this district, eight panchayat unions are having income over 3 lakh rupees, seven panchayat unions are having income in between 3 and 6 lakhs, three panchayat unions are having income varying between 6 and 10 lakhs and one panchayat union is having financial status of above 10 lakh rupees. No panchayat union is having deficit position. General information about these panchayat unions and their income from 1980-81 to 1995-96 are given in *Appendix-1.*

TOWN PANCHAYATS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT.

The present small towns which are but evergrowing villages having vast and rich agrarian hinterlands may blossom forth into the agro-industrial complexes. The small towns are quite often seen as the *bridge* between the urban and rural universe, a kind of settlement which can offer the best and none of the worst of both worlds.[23] The town in the context is pictured as a *Centre of materials and intellectual intercourse* as a centre of freedom, freedom to choose a home, a job, a school for each child, and to choose friends and pleasures. It forms a hierarchical polarised system through which economic growth will materialise.

The solutions to the ugly problems of metropolitan life have to be found by not allowing the existing towns to overgrow into municipalities and municipalities into corporations but in containing them and dispensing

them over various small towns in the vast rural hinterland. Every geographical area such as a block must have small towns at various points to which people can come to work and return to their villages on each day with vastly improved system of transport facilities. This is the way by which rural life can be made richer and urban life made healthier. This is the way to combat the abnormal regional and sectoral disparities in the levels of income and investment. Here comes the Town Panchayats that act as the bridge between the urban and rural universe. Indeed they are settlements that offer the best and none of the worst of the metropolis. They are neither a replica of the villages of the past nor a surrender to the city but will be a new creation uniting the value of both and largely avoiding their limitations.

Under Section 3(1)(a) of the Tamil Nadu, Panchayat Act of 1958 all panchayats with a population of not less than 5000 and an annual income estimated at not less than Rs.10,000/- are classified as Town panchayats. All Class-I panchayats that previously existed became town panchayats. In addition, new Town panchayats were also constituted from time to time. These town panchayats are classified as selection grade, if their annual income exceeds Rs.1,00,000/- and as grade-I if their annual income is above Rs.40,000/- and less than Rs.1,00,000/-. Those with an income of less than 40,000 are treated as grade II Town panchayats.

The Tiurunelveli District is having 38 town panchayats. The date of constitution of these town panchayats, facilities available there such as water supply, roads, street lights, remunerative enterprises and other details are given in *Appendix-2.*

History of Municipal Administration

The Towns Act (India Act XXVI of 1850) aimed to develop the town, by constructing, repairing, cleaning, lighting, watering and by other allied activities. But, this Act was never enforced. The next step in this direction was by the introduction of Town Improvement Act (X of 1865). This Act was not introduced until the end of 1866 at which time it was brought into force in 29 towns. The Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai municipalities which belong to this district [24] were among those 29 towns. Funds compulsorily raised under the Act were at first utilised to meet the charges of maintaining Police in Towns but later on, it was extended to cover construction, repairing and cleaning of drains, forming and repairing of roads, maintaining of roads and streets and cleaning of tanks and doing other necessary things essential for the preservation of the public health. By this time, the number of municipalities rose to forty one in 1867-68. In 1869, three other municipalities were added to the list.[25]

By the Town Improvement Act of 1871, additional functions were given to Municipalities, namely, maintenance of Hospitals and Dispensaries,

Schools, Birth and Death Registration and Vaccination. Due tc transfer of vaccination work to the municipalities, great progress had been made and the prejudice which once existed against it had been broken down in the municipal towns.[26]

The term of office of the members was raised to three years. The District Collector was appointed as the President of the Municipal Council. The Vice-President was appointed by the Government. Provision was made for the election of the Councillors by the tax-payers. Provision was also made for the appointment of Inspecting Officers to supervise the working of the Act, by the Government. Contribution to Police charges was withdrawn. Due to frequent famine, there was greater financial strain and once again the municipalities reintroduced the policy of taxing the people for the maintenance of the Town Police.

District Municipalities Act of 1884

The Madras District Municipalities Act, 1884, marked an important step in Municipal Legislation. The Acts of 1865 and 1871 were both styled as Town Improvement Acts and the term 'municipality' was, now for the first time, introduced in the title. The terms 'Council and 'Councillor' have also been adopted in this Act in lieu of Commission and Commissioner. The Municipal Council was to consist of not less than 12 persons and their term of office was three years. The Revenue Divisional Officer incharge of the Sub-Division of the District in which the Municipality was situated was made an ex-officio Chairman. The Councillors might be appointed by the Government or with the permission of the Government any portion not exceeding three fourths of total number of Councillors might be elected by the tax-payers. The Chairman was appointed by the Government or elected by the Councillors from among themselves with the permission of the Government. He was the Executive Officer of the Council and was responsible for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act. The Government had the power to remove the Chairman or any Municipal Councillor at any time. The District Collector was vested with emergency powers.

The number of Municipalities administered under Act IV of 1884 continued to be 55. 2.5 per cent enjoyed the franchise in 1891-92 instead of 1.9 per cent in the previous year 1890-91. The increase was general, but was most marked in Salem, Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram and was due to the lowering of the profession tax and house-rent qualifications. The proportion borne by the number of voters to population was lowest in Berhampore, Mannargudi, Cuddalore, Palayamkottai and Vizagapatnam and the highest in Tellicherry, Ootacamund, Tirunelveli, Salem and Guntur. On an average, 52.9 per cent of the voters interested to attend the poll as aginst 49.5 per cent in 1890-91 in Tirunelveli.[27]

Madras District Municipalities Act 1920

(Tamil Nadu District) Municipalities Act of 1920.

The 1884 Act was replaced by the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act (Madras District Municipalities Act) of 1920. The new Act abolished the system of nominations, provided for creation and appointment of the posts of Health Officers and Municipal Engineers and granted larger powers to the Council to levy local Taxes to open schools and dispensaries and to fix the strength of the staff. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act 1920 is still in operation though it has undergone quite a few changes.

An important amendment was made in 1933 when the system of appointing Municipal Commissioners by the State Government was introduced. The other important amendment was the vesting of powers in the State Government to fix or alter the number, designation and grades of officers of the Municipalities. Several amendments have been made subsequently from time to time.[28]

The Municipal Council, Municipal Chairman and the Executive Authority are charged with the responsibility of carrying out the statutory provisions of the Act. With the name of the Municipality, the Municipal Council is a Corporate body having perpetual succession and a common seal. Under this Act, the Government have power to fix the strength of the Council exclusive of its Chairman from 20 to 52 according to population. The Chairman and the Councillors are elected direct by the electorate and the Vice-Chairman is elected from among the Councillors. There is a separate electoral roll for the Municipalities. All persons who have attained the age of 18 and who have been enrolled as voters in the municipal electoral roll are entitled to exercise their franchise to elect their representatives to the municipal Councils. Government have recently amended the relevant provisions in the Act reserving 18 per cent and 15 per cent for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and for Women respectively both in the offices of the Chairman and Councillors. The Councillors hold their office normally for a period of five years. No salary or remuneration is paid to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillors. The members of the Council are all elected by the electorate and there is no provision under the Act for nominating any person though at the earlier stages of the municipal administration the members were nominated by Government. The number of Councillors in a Municipality is decided on the basis of population.

All financial matters, especially the power to tax and the power to sanction expenditure, is vested with the Council. Usually the Council meets more than once a month though it is obligatory to meet only once a month. The State Government have powers under the Act to appoint Special Officers for the newly constituted Municipalities till elections are conducted as well as for the Councils dissolved or superseded. These Special Officers

are empowered to exercise the powers of the Council, its Chairman and Committees.[29]

Tirunelveli Municipality

Tirunelveli was constituted as a municipality on 1st November 1866. There was a proposal for the amalgamation of Tirunelveli municipality with that of Palayamkottai twice but was negatived on each occasion due to administrative reasons.

The Council as on 31st March 1891, consisted of 16 members. All of them were natives being one ex-official, one official and two non-officials nominated by the Government and 12 non-officials elected by the people. For electoral purposes, the town had been divided into six wards.[30] The total number of registered voters in the Nelliappar, Katchery, Perumal Koil, Santhi Pillaiyar koil, Matha koil and Thondar Nainar Kovil at the close of the year 1891-92 was 144, 143, 114, 229, 73 and 200 respectively.[31] The sanctioned strength of the Council was raised from 16[32] to 20 in 1900 and to 22 in 1901. In 1901, the two suburbs of Pettai, two miles away and Melaveeraraghavapuram generally referred to now as "Tirunelveli Bridge" were incorporated.[33]

The system of appointing Councillors by election was introduced into this municipality in 1882. The proportion of Councillors appointed by election was raised in 1886 from one half to three fourths of the sanctioned strength. 17 out of the 22 Councillors were elected. The town was divided into 11 wards for election purposes. The same position continued during 1919-1920. The population with the municipal limits as per last 1911 Census was 44805.[34] During 1939-40, there was a proposal to include within its limits certain areas lying in the immediate vicinity of Block 111 and extending upto Sugar Mills near Thatchanallur and certain other nanja lands in the Tirunelveli and Melaveeraraghavapuram villages. But, this did not materialise. At this time, the strength of the Council was 32. Of the five reserved seats, two were for Muhammadans and one each for women, Indian Christians and Adi Dravida. The Council as it stood on 31 March 1940, consisted of 25 Hindus, 5 Muhammadans and 2 Indian Christians of whom, one was a woman.[35] During 1949, it was upgraded as First Grade Municipality.[36] Its population was 87,918 as per 1961 Census and its total area was 5.85 Sq.miles. Number of Councillors all elected by the people were 32 of which three were from the SC/ST and women reserved category.[37] The number of wards were 29.[38] This municipality was upgraded as selection grade during 1970. Now the total number of wards are 36 of which two are reserved for SC/STS and one for women.[39] During 1971, the total area of this municipality was 15.33 Sq.Km. and its total population as per 1971 Census was 1,55,310. The density of population was 7168. As per 1981 Census, the total area of this municipality was

Corporation Buildings, Tirunelveli

13.47 sq.km. and the total population was 1,28,850 and the density of population was 8505.[40] From 1987, this municipality has been functioning as Special Grade.[41] During 1990, this was divided into 42 wards.[42]

Members, elected by election in 1969, continued till 1976. Then, it came under the control of Special Officer till 1986. During 1986, members were elected and they remained in administration of this municipality till 3 March 1991. From 3 March, 1991, the municipality is under the control of a Special Officer. In 1996, elections were conducted for various municipalities in this district.

Water Supply

The source of water supply is the Tambraparani river and the supply is made through four irrigation channels which flow through the town. In 1901, the sanitary engineer submitted two alternative schemes for the joint water supply of Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai. The source of supply for one of these schemes was the Tambraparni river and for the other, the irrigation channels. The cost of the former scheme which this municipality had to share was Rs.2,63,000/- and that of Palayamkottai was Rs.4,01,000/- But, due to financial crunch this scheme was dropped.[43]

Even during 1940s, there was no protected water supply in this municipality. Many proposals were made by the Councils in different times, for implementing water supply scheme. But, those plans were not implemented either due to lack of finance or due to dry conditions prevailed in that area. Mostly tube-wells were sunk and sometimes these tube-wells were deepened to meet the growing demand for water.[44] It was in 13, April 1961 that the protected water supply scheme was put into operation in this municipality.[45] The scheme called Tirunelveli Water Supply Scheme Kurukkuthurai constructed at a cost of Rs.28.0 lakhs and commissioned in 1962 and it has got many feeder lines too. The distance between the head works and the town is two km. and between the headworks and the nearest sub station, it is 12 km. Another water supply scheme called Tirunelveli Water Supply Improvement Scheme, Kondanagaram was implemented in 1973. The distance between the head work and the town is 12 km. and that of the nearest substation is 7 km. The main source of water for the above schemes is the river Tambaraparani. Government and Life Insurance Corporation have given loan for implementing this scheme. 7972 house connections and 4433 meter connections were given so far in this municipality. At present, 510 hand pumps are found functioning in this municipality. 94 persons including junior engineers are working in the water works department of this municipality.[46]

Drainage and Sanitation

From the beginning of this municipality, there was no proper drainage scheme which may be one of the reasons for the frequent occurrences of the epidemics like Cholera and other diseases like malaria and other water borne diseases as well. It seems proper attention was not paid on this aspect till 1970 as no schemes were formulated to have proper drainage in the area. In 1940s, open drains were built only in places where they were needed. Thus, drains to a total length of 7986 feet were constructed in 25 streets.[47] In course of late 60s also, there was not great improvement in the drainage systems. At that time, there was kutcha drains to a length of 3643 feet constructed for this purpose.[48] Only in 1973, the Government sanctioned a scheme worth Rs.113 lakhs for constructing underground drainage system for this municipality. For this purpose, Tirunelveli town has been divided into three parts, namely, Old Pettai division, Pettai division and Tirunelveli junction division. Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board has undertaken the work and the work of the first division was completed, and handed over to this municipality on 1 November 1989 [49]. A sum of Rs.7.19 lakh was spent towards repairs to drain during 1994-95.

The number of cess pools cleaned by the municipal sanitary workers were 240 in 1894 [50]. 35 sweepers, 7 cess-pool cleaners and 17 carts were used for removing rubbish, nightsoils, etc., The main roads and streets were swept twice and others once every day. The drains of 23 streets were cleaned twice a day and the cesspools which were 310 in number were cleaned once a day. The public latrines were 9 in number, 3 for females and 6 for males and they were cleaned twice a day. 21 private privies were cleaned once a day by a municipal scavengers. Movable dustbins were placed in different localities of the town. Nightsoils converted into manures were sold. During 1940s, there were 11 ward peons, one nightsoil depot peon, one cattle depot peon, 157 male scavengers and 44 female scavengers. There were 32 latrines. The nightsoil were trenched in Pettai and Vellamadam depots. 42 rubber tyred wheelbarrows were pressed into service during this period. Four new rubber tyred bullock carts were purchased during the year for carrying rubbish. The sullage were also removed. There were 6214 private latrines during this period.[51] During late 1960s, there was no drainage scheme for the town. Open drains had been constructed wherever necessary. Arrangements for collection, removal and disposal of street refuse were made with the help of lorries, one tractor, three trailors besides hand carts and bullock carts. There were 12 septic tank latrines, 32 dry earth latrines and 11 public urinals for the sake of public. [52] During late 1980s, three lorries, one tractor, 1 trailor, 35 rubbish carts and 250 other carts were pressed into service for keeping this town neat and clean.[53] There was one composite yard with the area of 13.11 sq.acres, for converting the nightsoil into

manure and the sale of this manure fetched Rs.10,000/- in an average per year.[54] In late 1990s, 62 public latrines, 28 septic tanks with 164 seats, and 34 dry latrines are functioning in this municipality. (The Corporation is now utilising 12 public health lorries, 4 tractors, 51 rubbish carts, 2 sullage carts and 15 nightsoil drums for removing rubbish in this area) Apart from this, municipality maintains a pay and use latrine at Saliyar street, Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose market at Tirunelveli Town. From there, the municipality earned as income of Rs.3.66,886 for 1991-92 and Rs.4,12,680/- for 1992-93. A cattle shed also is maintained by this municipality. By the sale of composite manure, the municipality, during this period, earned Rs.21,700/- [55] A sum of Rs.5420/- was earned as income during 1994-95.

Communications

In 1890s, the total expenditure under this head was Rs.2,242.9-11. The number of miles of roads including streets and lanes maintained by the municipal council was 15 of which 11 were metalled and four were unmetalled.[56]

In 1920s, the expenditure under roads was Rs.14,008-13-8,[57] whereas in 1940s, the trunk road for a length of two and a half furlongs, Chermadevi high road an extent of 6 furlongs, Shankarankoil road to an extent of 3 furlongs, Courtallam or Tenkasi road to an extent of 4$^1/2$ furlongs were improved and the total expenditure, amounted to Rs.32,718/-. In general the conditions of roads were satisfactory. The total ordinary expenditure on roads during this period was Rs.19,629/-[58] In 1960, the length of dustless surface amounted to length of 31 miles, 3 furlongs, 98 yards, metalled roads to the length of 6 miles 5 furlongs 98 yards and gravelled and earthern roads to a length of 6 miles, 5 furlongs and 81 yards were maintained by this municipality. In 1992-93, this municipality was maintaining cement road, of the length 61.47 kilometre, black topped road of 16.190 km., concrete road to a length of 0.065 km., gravelled road of 7.023 km. length and mud road to an extent of 01.83 km., During this period, Rs.3,72,291/- were spent for maintenance and repairing of the roads.[59] During the year 1994-95 a sum of Rs.2.35 lakhs was spent for the maintenance of the roads.

Lights

During 1890s, there were 331 lamps and the cost of maintenance of each light amounted to 12 annas and two paise.[60] The number of lights in this municipality went upto 847 during 1940. During winter, the lights were burnt throughout night irrespective of the phase of the moon. 183 kerosene lights, three petromax lights and two lights temporarily provided in the river bed for a short period were maintained by this municipality. The cost of lighting was Rs.24,965/- [61] In the later part of 1960, the

municipality maintained 1780 electronic lights, 76 M.V. lamps and 63 tube lights. Similarly, since 1990 this municipality has been maintaining 2732 single tubelights, 350 double tube lights, and 197 sodium vapour lamps. Rs.8,98,455/- is spent for the maintenance of these lamps per month.[62] A sum of Rs.32.48 lakhs was spent towards maintenance of street lights during the year 1995-96.

Public Health

Small pox and Cholera were prevalent in this town and the municipality took many steps to prevent these epidemics. Vaccination was made compulsory from 1st July 1885.[63] The births and deaths registered during the year 1893 was 930 and 741 respectively. The year 1893 was free from epidemics. The number of persons vaccinated were 1936.[64] A trained midwife was appointed on 28th May 1894.[65] During 1920's the municipality maintained three medical institutions, a main hospital at Tirunelveli and two dispensaries at Pettai and Melaveeraraghavapuram respectively. One fourth of the net annual cost of maintaining the hospital was contributed from local funds.[66]This system continued during 1940's also. During that time 1756, successful vaccinations were made. The total number of births registered during the year 1940 was 2150 and that of death was 1529. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre continued to work during the period of 1939-40. Five midwives continued to work in the Centre.[67] During 1961-62, there were two allopathic hospitals, two dispensaries and one part time dispensary. Apart from this, it also maintains eight Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. During this period, this municipality maintained either permanently or temporarily, sheds for infectious diseases. It had 40 deaths due to smallpox during that period.[68] The births and deaths registered during the year 1995-96 was 3391 and 881 respectively.

Since 1992-93, Municipal hospital Tirunelveli Town, Women and Children hospital at Pettai, municipal dispensary at Tirunelveli junction, Kasthuribai Municipal dispensary Pettai, Municipal Siddha dispensary at Pettai, and Municipal Siddha dispensary old Pettai, have been functioning in this municipality. The number of patients treated in these hospitals and dispensaries for the year 1991-92 amounted to 150389 and the expenditure for the maintenance of these hospitals and dispensaries amounted to Rs.17,24,463/- A sum of Rs.26.56 lakhs was incurred towards maintenance during the year 1995-96. 35547 patients were given treatment in hospitals during 1995-96. Four 'D' grade and three 'C' grade Family Welfare Centres are functioning in the suburban areas of Tirunelveli municipality.[69] Deaths occurred due to typhoid and tuberculosis. This municipality is taking proper steps to eradicate malaria and the causative agent mosquitos, by spraying DDT etc. Arrangements were made in these municipal hospitals and dispensaries to give oral polio drops, vitamin 'A'

drops, preventive steps like B.C.G injections, tetanus toxoid injections, measles injections, etc., to the children.[70] This helps to a great extent reducing the child mortality rate. During the year 1995-96, 4393 stray dogs were destroyed.

Education

During 1891, Rs.3,579-6-6 were spent by this municipality for spread of education.[71] The number of aided schools were 15. There were 19 primary schools including the schools solely maintained by the Council for the education of the children of the Panchamas and one for Muhammadans under results grant. Seven aided and one unaided schools were completely involved in spread of education among the female children. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs.3209-3-7 [72] for the period 1893-94 including the Puckle's caste girls school whose management was transferred to the council in 1910-11 with a funded capital of Rs.5,500/- in Government accounts. During 1912, the municipal council maintained two elementary schools of its own and also aided 38 others with grants.[73]

In 1940's, there were one Government school, 24 municipal schools and 55 private schools. The total strength of these schools put together was 5082 and that of the municipal schools was 3043. Elementary education continued to be compulsory for boys. Parents' Associations were formed and meetings were held once in a month in all the municipal schools. Medical inspection of pupils was done by the Municipal Medical Officers and Health Officers free of cost.[74] There were three schools maintained specially for Adi-Dravidas, three for Muhammadan boys and two for Muhammadan girls. Oil and soap nut powder were supplied to Adi Dravida pupils. Books and slates were also supplied to them free by this municipality. Spinning classes were also held in two municipal schools. The municipal public library and free reading room continued to be popular. Ward reading rooms opened in 1936-37 were quite popular among the people.[75] During 1960's, 17 elementary schools and four secondary schools were functioning in this municipality.[76] Mid day meal schemes which was introduced in all the 17 elementary schools on 15th December 1960. 543 poor pupils in all the schools were fed with midday meals.[77] The Municipal Girls' Higher Secondary School Tirunelveli was awarded the rolling shield for securing 87 per cent result in the +2 Examination in 1984.[78] From 1st April 1990, all the municipal schools were brought under the control of Government and teachers have been paid from Government fund. There is a library maintained by this municipality and Rs.4253/- is spent for the maintenance. Children are supplied with nutritious noon meals from 15th September 1982, under Puratchithalaivar MGR Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme. While 18 municipal schools feed children between 5 and 9 years, 6 municipal schools feed children from 10 to 15 years. 6187965 children of age groups 5 to 9 and 367585 children of 10 to 15 years are benefited by this scheme.[79]

Remunerative Enterprises

In 1890s, there were two markets, viz., Pennington Market* in the Centre of the town and meat market in the north western part of the town and these two were leased out during the year 1891, the former for Rs.680/- and the latter for Rs.143-8-0; A house and its compound were purchased at a cost of Rs,699-2-0 for the extension of Pennington Market.[80] 1920's, there was a small increase in the revenue under markets and slaughter houses. This receipt amounted to Rs.2546-10-0. The increase was due to the very keen competition at sales.[81] In 1940, the municipal Council maintained four public daily market, i.e., one vegetable market in block II and 3 meat markets, 2 in block I and one in block II. There was also a weekly shandy in the Kandiaperi area. A sum of Rs.9,840/- was realised from the market. There were 3 slaughter houses, one each in the three blocks. There were two bus stands.[82] This state of affairs continued for many years. Even in 1960's there was no change. Currently, four daily markets and three slaughter houses function here. The municipality now maintains a travellors' bungalow and a park in front of the municipal office.[83] The income derived from market is Rs.4.97 lakhs, bus stand Rs.12.33 lakhs, slaughter house Rs.0.44 lakh and from shops Rs.29.61 lakhs for the year 1994-95 under this head.

Fairs and Festivals

Aani Perunthiruvizha, celebrated by the Swami Nellaiappar Devasthanam attracts considerable crowd for which sanitary arrangements have been made by the municipality and in 1992-93, a sum of Rs.3,750/- was collected from the Devasthanam for this purpose.[84]

Food Adulteration and Dangerous and offensive trades

Due care is exercised in granting licences for those trades with special reference to the places of manufacture, storage and sale of food and drink. Steps are taken to see that these trades are conducted on sanitary and hygienic conditions. In 1940, 144 samples as against 148 in the previous year were taken and sent for analysis. Of them, 74 are found adulterated. Of this, 68.5 per cent of samples were of milk and 24.3 per cent were of ghee. All the offenders were prosecuted. Density of population was kept in view when licences were granted to dangerous and offensive trades. By laws in respect of shaving saloons, selling and storing of timber, firewood, hay, coal, etc. were in force. [85]In 1967, all hotels, catering houses and sweetmeat shops were duly licensed. The municipality was allotted a monthly quota of 21 samples. 253 samples were sent for analysis. 66 samples were certified to be adulterated and a sum of Rs.3,465/- was realised as fine [86] during 1965-66. Even during 1992-93, 226 samples were sent for analysis and it was found that 224 were free from adulteration. Under Food Adulteration prevention Act, 2342 and under Dangerous and

offensive trade Act, 2705 licences were issued.[87] During the year 1995-96, 291 samples were sent for analysis. Out of which, 9 samples were adulterated and others were genuine. The income under D & O and PFA Licence for the year 1995-96 is Rs.3.45 lakhs and Rs.0.28 lakh respectively.

Income

In 1893, the opening balance was Rs.17,503/- and the receipts of the year amended to Rs.25,176/- The total expenditure was Rs.25,431/-[88] During 1911-12, the actual receipt was Rs.88,337/- and actual expenditure was Rs.99,788/-. The incidence of taxation per head of population in 1911-12 was Rs.1-4-2 pies.[89] In 1920, the receipts were Rs.1,22,729-4-5, the charges were Rs.1,18,935-10-0 and the closing balance was Rs.18,283-6-4. The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs.1-14-5.[90]In 1940, the cash transactions under all accounts amounted to Rs.3,07,657/- under receipts against which the expenditure incurred was Rs.3,44,760/- leaving a closing balance of Rs.1,06,378/-. The incidence of taxation per head of population was 2-7-2.[91] In 1965-66, the receipts under all accounts amounted to Rs.40,95,908 and the total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs.40,10,665/-. Incidence per head of population of all taxes for the year 1964-65 was Rs.13.18 and for 1965-66, it was Rs.13.58.[92] The total receipts under all accounts amounted to Rs.2,42,82,058/- and the expenditure amounted to Rs.3,18,00,000/-[93] for the year 1992-93.[93] The income and expenditure of this zone for the year 1994-95 was Rs.605.42 lakh and Rs.567.36 lakh respectively. Incidence of income per head of the population is Rs.446.

Palayamkottai Municipality

Palayamkottai town serves both as an administrative headquarters and an educational centre since most of the Government offices and Educational institutions are located in the town.

Palayamkottai was one of the oldest municipalities since it was constituted on 1st November 1866 as 3rd grade municipality. In 1953 it was upgraded as 2nd grade municipality and it was further upgraded as first grade on 13th April 1965.[94]

The original sanctioned strength of the Council was 12[95] which was subsequently raised to 16 in 1900.[96] The system of appointing councillors by election was introduced into this municipality in 1883.[97] The proportion of Councillors to be appointed by election was raised in 1886 from one half to three fourths of the sanctioned strength.[98] During 1894-95 the full strength of the Council was 12 members of whom three were officials and nine non-officials. Two officials and one non-official were appointed by the Government. The remaining nine Councillors were elected

by the rate payers. The total number of registered voters in Murugankurichi Fort and cantonment wards at the close of 1895 was 122, 154 and 83 respectively.[99]The town was divided into six wards for election purposes.[100]The strength of Council as sanctioned by Government was 16, twelve elected and four nominated under sections 14(b) (ii) of the Madras District Municipalities Act.[101]The same position was continued in 1920.[102] In 1940 there was a slight change in the jurisdiction of this municipality without any change in the number of wards which remained at 16. The sanctioned strength of the Council continued to be 20.There was no change in the number of reserved and un-reserved seats for each ward.[103] Of the reserved seats one was for Adi Dravidas, one for Indian Christians, one for Women and one for Muslims. In 1965 it had a population of 50995 as per 1961 census and its area was 19,518 Sq.Km. miles. Its council consisted of 28 councillors who were elected members. Of this, three were reserved seats, one for Women and the rest two for SC/STs. Its population in 1971 was 70087 which rose to 87502 in 1981. In 1974, this municipality was divided into 32 wards with two seats reserved for SC/STs and one for women.[104] The same position continued till 1993.[105]

Water Supply

The chief sources of water suply are the Palayam Channel fed by an offtake from the Tambraparni river and wells. Two schemes were put up in 1901 but due to lack of funds they were not materialised.[106] In 1940 there was much scarcity of water as there was no water in the Palayam channel. Women were forced to walk a long distance to gather water. Apart from Palayam Channel which supplied drinking water to a large portion of the town, the tube wells sunk, in important centres of the town and also the municipal reservoir to which water was pumped from a big well close by supplied drinking water. The water of the palayam Channel was highly contaminated and people using the water suffered from water borne diseases. There were 81 tube wells maintained by the council. People considered water and drainage tax as a burden due to economic depression and it was reduced from 3 1/2 to 2 1/2 per cent and the council had taken all the important steps to execute the water supply scheme.[107] In 1965this town was fed by protected water supply at 14 gallons per head per day.[108] Even at present, water supply is being taken from Tambaraparani river at Manappadaiveedu village which is 8 kilometre away from Palayamkottai. The existing water supply has been designed for supply of 140.00 lakhs litre per day. The water is stored in old reservoir, new reservoir, Perumalpuram overhead tank, 'A' colony overhead tank and Maharajanagar overhead tank.To overcome the inadequacy in the supply of water, improvements were made in the water supply scheme in the year 1978 at an estimated cost of Rs.97.00 lakhs. At present, from the existing scheme in Palayamkottai zone Corporation is now supplying 110 lakhs litres of

drinking water per day. This present per-capita supply is 90 litres per head per day for the existing Palayamkottai zone area. As a long time measure, a comprehensive water supply project is approved by the Government at an estimate cost of Rs.6.63 crores to meet the immediate water needs of the Palayamkottai zone area in the Corporation. There are 13800 house tap connections and 253 public fountains, currently existing in this municipality. Rs.20 is collected per tap and for domestic connection Rs.20.50, non-domestic Rs.60.50 and for industrial Rs.40.50 are levied as a charge.[109]

Drainage and Sanitation

In 1891, there was no regular system of drainage and there were a few masonry drains and side cuttings.In 1890s, 250 houses were cleaned by the municipal scavengers. For this purpose, two carts and four scavengers were employed at the cost of Rs.360/-. Four carts and 12 scavengers were employed for the removal of night soil. The sweepings were burnt in the Cinerator. During this period, the expenditure under this head amounted to Rs.3273.[110] During 1910 the number of dustbins were 178. There were 36 sweepers for cleaning the town. There were 22 public latrines of which 14 were for men and 8 for women and 18 sweepers were there to clean the same. The number of sweepers employed for private scavenging were 70.[111] In 1940s there were 10 public latrines. But due to lack of finance much improvement could not be made. Provisions were made for removal of night soil and rubbish as usual. A sum of Rs.1719 was spent for the removal of the same; Conservancy services were provided to 3264 houses in this municipality. [112] In 1965 there was no underground drainage scheme for this municipality. 1762 feet of open masonry drains existed in this municipality. During the year 1995-96 a sum of Rs.1.30 lakh was spent towards construction of drain in this zone. Night soil and rubbish were removed by using carts and tractor trailors. At present 5 pay and use latrines and 15 public latrines are maintained in this zone.[113] In 1980 the entire municipality was divided into five divisions and each division was under the control of a Sanitary Inspector and the sanitary conditions were said to be satisfactory.[114] In 1990 there were three public conveniences. The night soil were removed with the help of carts and lorries to the compost yard. During 1995 the municipality (now corporation) has achieved the unique distinction of liberating and rehabilitating all the eleven scavengers, including three women employed by it for removing human excreta under the integrated low cost sanitation cum scavenger rehabilitation scheme. The Palayamkottai Zone is the first municipal body to implement this noteworthy scheme, encouraged by both the Central and the State Governments.[115]

Communications

During 1890s the expenditure incurred for road maintenance amounted to Rs.2,226. During that period the municipality was maintaining 18 miles of roads. [116] The lanes and streets were not in a satisfactory condition. In 1909-1910 the expenditure incurred for road construction and maintenance and for building of bridge over the Palayam channel and culverts amounted to Rs.8529-4-5. [117] In 1920 the amount spent on roads amounted to Rs.7,746.[118] In 1940s the length of great southern trunk road within the municipal limits was two miles and 137 yards. Rs.4614 were spent for its upkeep. For the maintenance of roads, streets and lanes, an amount of Rs.7494 was spent. The total length of other roads were 35 miles. [119] During 1965 the municipality was maintaining cement concreated road of 9 miles, 2 furlongs and 097 yards, bittumen tarred road of 8 miles, 6 furlongs 176 yards, metalled roads of 11 miles, 3 furlongs 146 yards, and gravelled roads to the tune of 15 miles 5 furlongs. 213 yards.[120] During 1983-84 the municipality was maintaining 32.15 km. of cement roads, 24.116 km. of black topped road, 9,166 kms. of bluemetalled roads, 12.877 kms. of gravelled roads and 1.069 km. of other types of roads.[121] A loan to the tune of Rs.50000 was sanctioned by the Government for making improvements on the roads. In 1992-93 this municipality was maintaining 32.152 kms. of cement concrete road, 34.176 km. of bitumen road, 22.123 kms. of metal roads and 1.069 km. of mud roads. Rs.2,10,000 was incurred as maintenance charge and Rs.6,94,000 was spent for construction of new road works and Rs.3,57,600 was spent on labour.[122] In 1995-96, they are maintaining 32.153 km. of cement concrete roads, 34.636 km. of bittumen road, 23.685 km. of metallic road and 15.468 km. of mud road. A sum of Rs.15.24 lakhs was spent during this period in this zone towards maintainance of roads.

Lighting

The total number of lights in 1892-93 was 193 and an amount of Rs.1551 was spent for lighting. The maintenance cost of each lamp per month was Rs.0-10-6. [123] The total number of lights were 551 for the year 1910 and 8 lanterns were added in that year.[124] The total number of street lanterns during 1920 were 694. Rs.6,585-13-6 had been spent on street lighting for this period. [125] During 1940 electric lights were provided throughout the town including lanes also. The total number of lights were 734. Since large expenditure was incurred for street lighting, the Council reduced the wattage of street lamps to 15. There were 705 lights of 15 watts, 22 of 40 watts, 4 of 60 watts and 3 of 100 watts. The total expenditure on street lights amounted to Rs.20020. There was a move to introduce lighting rate based on annual value of properties. But it did not materialise.[126] In the course of late 1960s this municipality was maintaining 1276 lights of different watts. There was no kerosene light in the town.

Almost all the streets and lanes of the town had been provided with electricity. A sum of Rs.38120-1-0 was spent on street lights maintenance charges.[127] During 1960s there were 2501 street lights maintained by this municipality and Rs.1,26,101/- was the expenditure incurred for the maintenance.[128] In 1993 there were 3068 tube lamps (illuminating this municipality). 1.25 per cent of the property tax is paid as lighting rates.[129] In 1995-96 there were 5783 lights in total. In that, 5502 were four feet tubelights , 28 mercury lamps and 253 sodium vapour lamps illuminating this municipality. During the year 1995-96, a sum of Rs.140.00 lakhs was spent towards provision of new lights and maintenance in this town.

Public Health

Compulsory vaccination was introduced on the 18th May 1866. There was a hospital functioning in this town and this was transferred to municipality for maintenance in 1871. The most common diseases prevalent among the out patients were ulcers, skin diseases, fever, diarrhoea and respiratory disease. 12,432 out patients and 342 inpatients were attended on in the municipal dispensary during 1891-92. There was a labour ward and a mid wife was attached to it. Epidemics like small-pox and cholera broke out in 1890-91 and 24 patients due to small pox and 187 due to cholera died. A hospital assistant was specially deputed to go round the town to render medical aid to those suffering from diseases.[130] A branch dispensary was opened in Melapalayam in 1901. In 1910 the total expenditure for maintenance of hospital and dispensaries amounted to Rs.10,609-6-9. There were 891 in-patients and 26530 out-patients. In the labour ward the mid wife attended 112 labour cases and the vaccinator vaccinated 1,439 persons. During the months of November and December 1910 cholera was prevalent and 141 persons were affected of whom 97 died. [131] During 1920, the expenditurte incurred for the treatment of patients in the municipal hospital at Palayamkottai and the dispensary at Melapalayam amounted to Rs.21,748-2-0. The number of births and deaths registerd during the year were 1535 and 1568 respectively. There was 25 attacks of cholera which caused death to 20 persons. In the case of small pox the persons affected were four, of whom three died. [132] Malaria and influensa also prevailed in this municipality during this period. In1940s Palayamkottai had two well equipped hospitals viz., Government Head quarters hospital and the women and children hospital at Vannarpettai and each had an out-patients dispensary. The total number of patients treated at the dispensary were 12,297. The cost per patient was Rs.0-2-7. The total number of births and deaths registered were 1286 and 160.[133] Total number of births and deaths registered during 1995-96 were 2120 and 720 respectively. During the later period of 1960s the maintenance charge of the Municipal hospital was Rs.31,466. 22197 patients were treated in the municipal hospital and 32547 patients were treated in the dispensaries.

The council had liberally sanctioned the expenditure on public health which was 30 percent of the normal receipts. Health propaganda was carried on as usual. There were 72 film shows conducted during the year 1966-67. 7300 people had witnessed these filmshows. There was a health and welfare organisation maintained by the Indian Red Cross Society which supplied milk freely to expected mothers and weak and poor children. 3446 births and 1090 deaths were registered in this municipality. A permanent isolation shed in the Palayamkottai Sivalaperi road was maintained by the council. 72 persons were rendered free treatment for small pox. The town was free from malaria. The anti mosquito scheme was in operation and anti cholera innoculations were carried out. 2622 persons were vaccinated during 1965.[134] The three municipal hospitals and three part time dispensaries were very popular among the people of this municipality during the period of 1983-84. Rs.157667 was the expenses incurred for the maintenance of these hospitals and dispensaries. 13226 patients were treated in these municipal hospitals. The expenditure incurred was Rs.3.69 for treating the patients. In the part time municipal dispensaries 49987 persons were treated.[135] In 1992-93, there were five maternity centres, two D.R.S.centres and two public hospitals, one run by municipality and the other by Government. Apaprt from these there are two dispensaries, one municipal dispensary and another CSI dispensary. These hospitals and dispensaries are rendering service to the public.[136] During famine and floods proper care is taken by this Municipality to prevent the epidemics and spread of other diseases by innoculation and by adopting other preventive measures.

Education

During 1887 there were 18 schools on the whole with 1068 boys.[137] The number of boys on the rolls fell in 1892 and more attention was also given to physical education. The net expenditure on education was 15-0 per cent of the receipts, from taxation.[138] The municipality aided 13 schools, 11 on the result grant and 2 on the salary grant system. During 1910 the number of elementary schools under the management of the council was two for boys and one for girls. The number of girls on rolls of the Municipal girls school during this period was 176. There was a rising trend in the girls' education which was due to the keen interest taken by Miss. Prager the sub-Assistant Inspector in charge of this range. Of the two schools for boys, one was maintained for the Panchamas and the other for Muhammadans. The number of boys on rolls were 72 in the former and 73 in the latter.[139] In 1912, the municipal council maintained three elementary schools one of which was for Panchamas and another for girls and 20 elementary schools were aided with Grants by Government.[140] During 1920, Education burden of the Council, was lightened by the large number of aided non-municipal schools located in

the town. There was steady increase in the strength of municipal schools. Besides the eight elementary schools five for boys and three for girls, a night school was maintained by the municipality at a cost of Rupees 4264-13-8.[141] In 1940, the total number of elementary schools for boys and girls (including the municipal schools) were 19 for boys and 10 for girls. The total strength of boys and girls was 1809 and 1065 respectively, of whom 24.6 per cent boys and 42 per cent girls were attending the municipal schools. There was a proposal by the council to introduce compulsory education.[142] There were two night schools for labour classes. Four reading rooms were maintained by the Council in the important centres of the Town. During 1966, in the municipal area there were 18 aided and 11 municipal elementary schools with total average strength of 9448. Compulsory elementary education was in force.[143] Midday meals scheme was introduced on 15th August 1961 but was discontinued from 1 December 1964 to 31st August 1965 for want of rice. Later, from 1st September 1964, 1200 poor pupils were fed daily under this scheme. The expenditure for the scheme was met from the contribution of the council, Government grant and public donations. There were three schools to meet the needs of the scheduled and backward class pupils. Education tax was levied at 25 percent of the property tax. The total expenditure on elementary education was Rs.143828. Municipality maintained Karayalar Public library and 12 reading rooms. Rs.6978 was spent on the maintenance of the library and reading rooms. Actions were taken to handover the municipal Karayalar public library to local library authority.[144] During 1983-84, 10788 boys and 8716 girls were given education. 20 schools received aid from municipality. Under Chief Minister's Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme, children below two years were fed and 1150 per day benefited by this. In 1983, 29 Balvadis were functioning in this municipality. When the scheme was extended to children in the age group of 5 to 9 years, 1140 children were benefited and in the age group of 10 to 14 years, 100 peoples were fed. 300 old people were also fed in these centres.[145] 13 reading rooms maintained at a cost of Rs.18050/- were run by this municipality. There is a central library and a branch library at Vannarappettai.There are 10 primary schools with 567 boys and 547 girls studying in them. Three middle schools, with 236 boys and 204 girls serve the area. Apart from this, there are 14 reading rooms too for the benefit of the public. The 13 nutritious noon meal centres run by this municipality feed 951 children in the age group of 5 to 9 years and 362 children in the age group 10 to 15 years[146] and the expenditure for the year 95-96 is Rs. 2,02,820/-.

Remunerative Enterprises

The market in this town was constructed in 1869 at a cost of Rs.5,540.[147] In 1894 Rs.325 were spent for the upkeep of this market.[148] During 1920s under the head of markets, slaughter houses and avenues,

the council realised Rs.7,551 against an expenditure of Rs.761/- Rentals of market, bazaars were rising and the council had decided to invest more in these enterprises. [149] In 1940 there was only one market; which was a daily as well as a weekly market maintained by the municipality. Shandies were held every Thursday and there were permanent daily stalls within the market. A sum of Rs.6254 was realised as market fees as against an expenditure of Rs.1028. A cart stand too was maintained by the municipality. The income derived from this was Rs.640. Apart from this there were two private cart stands. The only sheep slaughter house owned by the municipality was leased out along with market. 141 trees were newly planted during the year. [150]

In 1964 there was one public market under the control of this council. It had both daily and weekly markets which were leased out. There was a slaughter house for this council, which was leased out for Rs.9000. For the year 1995-96 it derived Rs. 23.56 lakhs from markets, 80.95 lakhs from slaughter house, Rupees 0.74 lakhs from bus stand and Rs. 4.71 lakhs from shops as income under the remunerative enterprises. The Municipality maintained a bus stand. Fees from buses entering the bus stand were collected departmentally at the specified rate of 0.25 paise per bus per day. 2955 trees were maintained by this municipality. Apart from this, the municipality had the responsibility for the upkeep of seven parks. A sum of Rs.11912 were spent for the maintenance of trees, parks gardens etc., [151] The Municipality was maintaining a travellers' bungalow for the benefit of the travelling public. [152] In 1993-94 the municipality maintained two markets, one bus stand, three guest houses,one auditorium, two Kalyanamandapams and one open site for conducting meetings and for other purposes. There is a slaughter house, seven parks, one siren and seven burial grounds, one for Muslims, four for Christians and two for Hindus. [153]

Food Adulteration and Dangerous and Offensive Trades

During 1940s the total number of samples sent to Government analyst was 48 out of which 18 were found to be adulterated. All cases of adulteration were prosecuted and convicted. The total amount of fines realised was Rs.219. All trades coming under this category was controlled by licences issued under section 249 of the District Municipality Act. The Sanitary Inspectors periodically inspected the places where dangerous and offensive trades were carried on and special efforts were made to see that the conditions of licence were strictly observed. Defects pointed out by the District Health Officer on matters relating to the cleanliness of coffee hotels, soda-factories, eating houses etc., were rectified by taking suitable actions against those reponsible for such defects. [154] In 1966 all trades coming under section 249 of the Madras District Municipalities Act were licenced and a sum of Rs.16,486 was realised as licence fees. Out

of 148 samples sent to government analyst for analysis of adulteration in food, 48 were found adulterated. 39 cases were prosecuted and a fine of Rs.3028 was imposed on the offenders.[155] In 1992-93,1832 trades were registered under this head and Rs.10,992.25 was received as income from this.[156] In 1995-96, 1950 trades were registered under this head and Rupees 3.95 lakhs was received as income.

Finance

The receipts inclusive of the opening balance charges which includes the rates on houses, rates on lands, taxes on vehicles, animals, registration fee of vehicles, carts, tolls, income from markets, rent from buildings and levy for private scavenging etc., and the expenditure items include public works, education, sanitation, miscellaneous, supervision and refunds etc., In 1892 the opening balance was Rs.2536 and the receipts of the year amounted to Rs.19369.The total expenditure was Rs.19,537. The average incidence of taxation per head of the population was 0-11-3 including tolls.[157] During 1910 the total amount of receipts from all sources including the opening balance amounted to Rs.60809-1-3 and the amount spent was Rs.53127-1-11.[158] In 1920 the receipts from all sources excluding the opening balance ofRs.21,372-5-6 amounted to Rs.95,312. The total amount of expenditure was Rs.96,290-4-2 whereas in 1940, the receipts, ordinary and capital, amounted to Rs.180500 and expenditure to Rs.175741 and the incidence of taxation per head of the population amounted to Rs.1-14-2. During 1967 the total receipts (ordinary) amounted to Rs.5,59,444 and that of expenditure was Rs.5,35,255 and the deficit Rs.24,189. The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs.12.20.[159] and in 1992 the ordinary income amounted to Rs.20922817 and capital amounted to Rs.6431183.[160] The total income and expenditure of the zone for 1994-95 is Rs. 337.28 lakhs and Rs. 332.17 lakhs respectively. The incidence of taxation per head of the population is Rs. 345.

Melappalayam Municipality

The Melappalayam Town was functioning as a 3rd grade municipality since 10th October 1948.[161] In 1961, it had a population of 38886 which increased to 47728 in 1971 (Census Report), to 57683 in 1981[162] and to 68318 in 1991.[163] This town was divided into 21 wards initially and during 1963-64 it had 24 wards.[164] Later it was divided into 28 wards. Of the 28 wards two are reserved for SC/ST and one is reserved for women.

Water Supply

The Council supplied protected water through 132 fountains in 1965. During 1957-58, this municipality had taken up a pilot protected water supply scheme jointly with the Palayamkottai municipality, called Palayam combined scheme at a cost Rs.18.75 lakhs. The source of water supply is

the river Thambaraparani. The distance between the headworks and town is 14 km. [165] 10 lakh litres of water is pumped daily and 38 litres of water is supplied per head in this town. In 1982-83, an improvement scheme with separate headwork at a cost of Rs.142 lakhs was implemented. 2500 meter connections and 163 public fountains are provided in the town. [166] Rupees five is charged per tap per month in the town. Rs.1,22,000/- was the receipts and Rs.1,22,000/- was the expenditure incurred under the head. [167] During scarcity period, three tankers are pressed into service for supplying water.[168] An improvement in water supply scheme was introduced in the year 1986 at a cost of Rs. 2.00 crores. Accordingly the head work is located at Kondanagaram Tamarabarani river bed at a distance of 16 km. There are two reservoirs with a capacity of 18.00 lakhs and 6.82 lakhs. Distribution mains length in the town is 45.2 km. There are 164 public fountains, 104 borewells and 52 deep borewells in the town at present to meet the requirements of the public. The present protected water supply in the town is 58.00 lakh litres per day. 4,400 house service connections are existing now.

Drainage and Sanitation

Underground drainage system is not in vogue in this town. House wastes are collected in cess pools and removed daily through sewage water carts to compost yard. Two sanitary inspectors, two health assistants[169] four public health maistries, 29 sweepers, 46 scavengers are engaged by the municipality to keep the town clean.[170] Six single bullock rubbish carts, one conservancy lorry and 36 carts are used by this Council for removing rubbish and garbages in the town. Two per cent of the house tax is collected from the tax-payers for the maintenance of drainage and sanitation in the town.

Communications

This Council was maintaining 26 miles, 6 furlongs 200 feet metalled road, 2 miles, 1 furlong 656 feet non-metalled road, 3 miles 7 furlong 184 feet improved surfacing roads in 1965.[171] In 1983-84, 0.406 km. of concrete road, 0.215 km. of W.B.M. road, 2.962 km. of tar road, 9.750 of metalled road and 18.133 km. of gravelled roads were maintained incurring an expenditure of Rs.14,663.46.[172]

At present, this Council is maintaining 39.682 km. of roads, of which, 19.312 km. are earthern, 14.484 km. are metalled, 5,480 km. are black topped and 0.406 km. are cement roads. Rs.1,84,000/- was the expenditure incurred for road maintenance.[173] From 1, Ocober 95 onwards accounts are maintained at Central Office.

Lights

In 1965, there were 839 electric lights and 209 kerosene lamps in the town maintained by this municipal Council.[174] In 1982-83, there were 1037 lights in this town, of which,856 lights were ordinary lights, 176 were tubelights and five were mercury vapour lights. For their maintenance, it incurred an expenditure of Rs.18,853 .[175] At present, there are 1347 lights illuminating this town. Among these, 1260 are tube lights 41 are mercury lights and 46 are sodium vapour lamps. The expenditure on lights amounted to Rs.2,17,443/- and expenditure per light is Rs.161/-. There are 23 lights per kilometre length of road.

Public Health

In 1965, the town had one municipal dispensary and two maternity and child welfare centres maintained by this Council.[176] During 1982-83, only a Government hospital was available. The number of births and deaths during this time were 1962 and 255 respectively. In the two maternity and child welfare centres, two midwives and two ayahs looked after the labour cases. The total number of labour cases attended in these centres were 751 and Rs.32,154/- was spent for the maintenance of these two centres. Rules and regulations were formed in 1982 to remove the stray dogs in the town[177] and for that Rs.1019.50 was spent. At present the same conditions that prevailed in 1982-83 continues to prevail. Total number of births and deaths registered during the year 1995-96 were 1892 and 323 respectively.

Education

On the aspect of education, four municipal elementary schools and one middle schools were functioning.[178] This condition continued during 1982-83. There were 13 private management schools. The total number of children studying in these schools were 1655 and 1171 pupils studied in the municipal schools alone. To 6484 children, the privately managed schools imparted education. Compulsory education was in force in this town. Both boys and girls were admitted in these schools. There was no discrimination in admitting the students of scheduled caste or tribes and of backward classes. Tailoring was taught in the middle school. Regular inspection was carried on in these schools. There were 20 nutritious noon-meal centres, feeding the children above two years and less than four years of age. At these centres, 1615 children were fed regularly. About 938 children in the age group of 4 to 13 years were in five centres functioning in the five schools.

Apart from these, there were 20 centres feeding the aged destitutes in this town. Per day, 297 old persons were provided with food in these centres.[179] Five reading rooms catered to the needs of the crazy readers

who had the option to read newspapers, magazines, journals, etc., on which the Council spent a sum of Rs.1350.85. The Local Library Authority ran a library. At present one reading room is maintained in this zone. The same condition prevaited in 1986 also. 1358 children could gain the benefit of education in these schools where 33 teachers were engaged to instruct the pupils.[180] In 1990, all the schools were brought under the control of the Government. Nutritious noon-meal schemes are functioning successfully in this town.

Remunerative Enterprises

There is a daily market selling vegetables, fish, mutton, etc. In 1982-83, by leasing this out, the Council received Rs.92,741/- as income. There are two slaughter houses too. From which Rs.68,086/- was derived as income during 1982-83 and the expenditure for the above item was Rs.7601/-. 2427 trees were planted in this town for providing shelter and shade to people during winter and summer seasons. Among 2427 sapplings planted, only 240 survived.[181] A bus stand constructed here is under the maintenance of this Council. In 1984-85 Rs.1,45,205/- was derived as income from market and Rs.95,961/- from the two slaughter houses. This income under daily market is Rs.20.00 lakhs and under slaughter house is Rs.1.47 lakhs for the year 1995-96.

Fairs and Festivals

There are no noteworthy fairs or festivals celebrated in this town. The muslims of V.S.T. Thamusthaseem, Ameempalli, Madarasa are conducting a cattle shandy in September and October in this town. For this, they were issued with licence from this municipality and they are paying Rs.1000/- to this municipality.[183] Sanitary arrangement and water supply requirements of the people at that time is looked after by this municipality.[183]

Food Adulteration and Dangerous and Offensive trades

Under this head, 41 samples of foodstuff were taken for test of adulteration. Among them, only two were found to be adulterated, during the year 1995-96. Under food adulteration Act, 675 licences were issued and under dangerous and offensive trades, 987 licences were issued.[184]

Finance

The income of this municipality in 1962-1963 was Rs.2,90,371/- and incidence of taxation per head was Rs.4.59.The income of this municipality for the year 1994-95 was Rs.74.00 lakhs and incidence of income per head was Rs.108/-

Sengottai Municipality

Sengottai was constituted as Grade-III municipality in 1921. The population of this municipality as per the Census of 1951 was 17,332 and its average annual income was Rs,72,000/- Its total area is 2.68 sq.km. As per 1971 Census, its total population was 23894 and the density of population was 8916. The 1981 Census shows a total population of 25,675 and the density of population was 9356 in this municipality. As shown by the 1991 Census, the latest, population is 25766.[185]This municipality is divided into 20 wards, of which one is reserved for SC/STs and another one for women.[186]

Though small in size, the Sengottai municipality in Tirunelveli-district has all modern facilities, such as electricity, telephone and protected water supply. The town is well laid out and has a fine park for the size claimed to be one of the best in the State. Ever since, protected water supply was given to the town in 1940, the need for underground drainage was keenly felt. Much improvements have to be made with regard to roads and storm water drain, etc., As the financial position of the municipality is also not sound, it required a full grant from the government for undertaking these programmes.

Water Supply

The existing water supply system of the municipality is called Sechivatta water work which functions from 15 March 1946. In 1966, this municipality continued to maintain the protected water supply scheme. According to this scheme, an underground tunnel of 702 ft. long and 3 feet width from north to south was constructed in the Melur Valley having a catchment area of 3.5 sq. miles. The depth of the tunnel at the northern end is 25 ft. and that at the southern end is 40 feet. A collection well 20 feet in diameter is constructed at the southern end of the tunnel and the water that collects in the well is pumped by two turbine deep well pumps capable of discharging 230 gallons per minute. The pumps are run by two electric motors of 13.5 H.P. each. A third pump purchased from the loan amount of Rs.15,000/- obtained from government was installed in the water works in May 1962. There are two reservoirs, one for the low level and the other for the high level area having capacities of 53,135 gallons and 4750 gallons respectively, which supply water to the town. The Council was maintaining 141 street fountains and 397 house connections during this period. The total expenditure incurred for water supply during this period amounted to Rs.38,345.44. The cost per 1000 gallons of water was 20 paise. The other source of water supply in the town is from public wells.[187] At present this municipality pumps 13,00,000 litres of water which it supplies to its people for 1 1/2 hours per day for each zone. In an average, it supplies 46 litres of water per head, and water supply is provided

in 18-799 km. of streets and lanes and there is 3-8 km. of unserved area. This is supplemented by 46 handpumps and 144 public fountains. The number of house connections is 2459. Water charge per head is Rs.25/-.[188]

Drainage and Sanitation

There is no drainage scheme implemented in this municipality. During 1966, it maintained three dry earth public latrines and a septic tank, a latrine with twelve seats. Five urinals were also maintained. The filth, rubbish, sullage, etc., collected in the town are used for the manufacture of compost manure. The conservancy plants maintained by the municipality consisted of four bullock carts for the removal of rubbish, street sweepings, etc., and in 1963-64 one sullage cart, and 25 wheel barrows were purchased for the removal of night soil. 75 per cent subsidy from government was utilised for this purpose. Out of 5332, residential houses in the town only 1550 were provided with latrines. Many of the houses were small ones huddled together with no space for the construction of latrines. During the period 567.73 tonnes of compost manure was manufactured and in that 444.50 tonnes including previous year stock was sold for Rs.1,333.50. There was one sanitary inspector and one health assistant working in this municipality.[189] At present there are one tractor, 3 rubbish carts, 1 vehicle for removing sullage and rubbish in this municipality.[190] There are two compost yards in this municipality.[191] The municipality had 9 dry type and 12 flush out type public latrines, 410 dry type and 1600 flush out type private latrines in 1986.[192] Now, one lorry and two tillers are used for the removal of this rubbish and sullages. The length of catcha drains are 2.390 kms. The municipality maintains 9 'Pay and Use' public conveniences. 24 conservancy staff and 53 sanitary workers are the work force which has to look after the sanitations and hygiene of the municipality.[193]

Communications

During the later half of 1960s, there were four classes of roads maintained by the municipality, viz., cement concreted (5 furlongs 187 yards and 2 feet), black topped (7 furlong, 117 yards and 2 ft) metalled (1 mile 1 furlong 216 yards and 1 ft) and gravelled (6 miles 6 furlongs 255 yards and 1 ft). Rs.1663/- was spent during the year 1967 for maintenance.[194] At present, this municipality maintains 7.257 km. of cement concrete roads, 8.975 km. of black topped roads, 5.029 km. of metal roads and 4.927 km. of gravelled roads.[195] The expenditure incurred for road maintenance during 1991-92 was Rs.2,24,789 which works out to Rs.8586/- per kilometre.[196]

Lights

Electric lamps were introduced in the municipality around the middle of the century. The first few decades witnessed only the burning of kerosene lamps here. During the late 1960s, streets had electric lights as well as keronsene lamps. During 1966, there were 354 electric street lights and 32 kerosene street lights. The expenditure on the former was Rs.8432.35 and Rs.1250.41 on the latter.[197] The latter half of this century especially, the last few decades has seen the complete switchover to the electric lights. During 1991-92, the expenditure incurred for the maintenance of lights was Rs.1,24,440/- which works out to Rs.227/- per light. The number of lights per km. length of road was 204.[198] The total number of lights are 612 of which 574 are tube lights and 38 are mercury lights.[199]

Public Health

The Council did not maintain any medical institution. During 1957-58, there was a slight fall in the number of births registered. There were seven deaths due to Cholera. Vaccination was compulsory in this town. The number of persons vaccinated during 1957-58 was 3094. Under the auspices of the UNICEF skim milk distribution was made to poor children.[200] National Small pox eradication Programme had been launched from March 1963 with the objective of completely eradicating small pox. In 1967, the number of births and deaths registered during the year was 1032 and 331 respectively. The town was free from Cholera, small pox, plague and other such infectious diseases during this time. 2161 persons were vaccinated then.[201] At present an ayurvedic and an allopathic hospital are rendering service to the needy sick people. There are number of private hospitals and nursing homes functioning in this municipality.[202]

Education

Until the year 1960, the Council did not maintain any educational institution. But, it continued to maintain one reading room and gave grant to another.[203] In 1963, the total number of primary schools in this area was only four, excluding the elementary sections in the local secondary school for girls. 1,767 boys and 1005 girls, were the average strength of the students admitted in the schools during 1963-64. Compulsory education was in force in this area under the Old Travancore Cochin Rules. (There was no medical inspction of the school children during 1963-64). Two secondary schools with a strength of 855 pupils were run by the Government in this municipality. The council was maintaining a reading room housed in a municipal building constructed for this purpose. Important English and Tamil dailies and weeklies were supplied to this reading room which was very popular among its people. Rs.407.53 was spent during

1963-64 for the maintenance of the reading room.[204] Ar present, the municipality is not running any school in the area. There are eight nutritious noon meal centres where 260 children are fed.[205]

Remunerative Enterprises

This municipality maintains only one weekly market. The right of collection of fees from the market was leased out on auction. The income derived from it for the year 1963-64 was Rs.3,825/- and the expenditure was Rs.2487/-. A sum of Rs.20,000/- was obtained as loan for the construction of additional stalls in 1958-59 and this work was completed in May 1963. There were no private markets in this municipal area.

The municipality was not maintaining any cart stand. There is a bus stand maintained by this municipality. An amount of Rs.20,000/- was obtained as loan for improvement of the bus stand and the work was completed in 1963. The Council was maintaining one slaughter house. This municipality was maintaining two parks.[206] At present, a bus stand and a community hall are maintained by this municipality. For disposing the dead, two burning ghats for Hindus, two burial grounds for Christians and four muslim burial grounds are maintained.[207] During floods and droughts, precautions are taken by this municipality. Chlorination of drinking water sources and anti-cholera innoculation are done.

Fairs and Festivals

There is no notified fairs or festivals in this municipal area. The annual Kulasekaranathaswamy Temple festival takes place in January or February of every year. This festival attracts many people. Special sanitary arrangements were made during this festival, for which 75 per cent of the total expenditure was paid by the devasthanam department.[208]

Food Adulteration Cases and Dangerous Trades

Samples of food articles are taken frequently and got analysed to detect adulteration in food. During 1967, 49 samples were taken, of which, nine were reported adulterated. Prosecutions were launched in all the adulterated cases through which an amount of Rs.905/- was realised as fine. The sanitary inspector and public health peons employed under the Council locate the dangerous and offensive trades and licenses are granted only in cases where such trades are not a source of inconvenience to the public. All the conditions required for the safety and convenience of the public are enforced in the cases of dangerous and offensive trades. Rs.375/- is derived as fine for food adulteration and Rs.29,490/- as income derived by way of registration of dangerous and offensive trades, during 1994-95.

Finance

The main source of revenue is taxation,income from remunerative assets and grant from Government. Receipts including opening balance was Rs.2,45,091/- and the expenditure incurred were Rs.2,34,281/- for the year 1963-64. The incidence of taxation per head of population for the above period was Rs.4.88.[210] During 1974-75, the total receipts amounted to Rs.4,33,709/- while the expenditure amounted to Rs.4,37,698/-[211] In 1976-77, the total income of this municipality amounted to Rs.6,42,578/- whereas the expenditure was Rs.6,78,660/-; and in 1979-80, the former was Rs.7,10,783/- and the latter was Rs.7,10,069/-[212] The total income of this municipality during 1986-87 amounted to Rs.70,783/- and the expenditure was Rs.15,11,936/-[213] In 1987-88, the total income of this municipality amounted to Rs.21,55,205/- and the total expenditure was Rs.33,75,913/-[214] During 1993-94, the income of the municipality was Rs.23.76 lakhs.[215]

Courtalam Municipality

Courtallam in Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district is one of the scenic attractions in Tamil Nadu State. It is situated at an elevation of about 580 feet on the southern slopes of western Ghats and marvels as an excellent health resort. It was a panchayat till 30 September 1955. With a view to developing this health resort and to make it attractive as a tourist centre Courtallam had been constituted into a Grade-III Township with effect from 1st October 1955 by passing Courtallam Township Act. The area of the town is 7.60 sq.kilometres. Comprising of portions of the revenue villages of Courtllam, Melagaram and Ilanji. The population as per 1961 Census is 772. During the season, the floating population will range from 15,000 to 20,000. From 1 April 1975, it was subsequently upgraded as 1st grade Township. The total population as per 1971 Census was 1906. As per 1981 Census, it was 2705 which increased to 2842 as per 1991 Census. The First Grade Township was upgraded to that of a first grade Municipality functioning from 31 May 1994.[216] The total area of this municipality is 7.68 sq.km. When it was a township, it was divided into five wards. Now, re-distribution of wards has taken place with reservation for SCs/STs and Women.[217]

Water Supply

The water supply to the area is through the Courtallam water supply scheme which was inaugurated in the year 1962 at a cost of Rs.27.90 lakh. This is a combined water supply scheme for Ilanji, Melagaram panchayats and Tenkasi and this scheme was handed over to the then township committee on 1September 1963. The source of water supply is Chittar river emerging from the main falls. The designed capacity of scheme is 68 lpd. The suply is by gravitation. The quantity of water supplied in the

seasonal period, i.e. June to August is eight lakh litres per day. There are three reservoirs - one is the main ground level reservoir which is at Chittar having a capacity of 1.35 lakh litres. The second is the elevated reservoir located at Kalavanar Kalaiarangam which has a capacity of one lakh litres and feeds the areas in Tenkasi and Ramavarapuram areas. The third reservoir situated near mainfalls with 50,000 litres capacity caters to the requirement of the people living in mainfalls area and in municipal cottages. For the period, 1963-64, there were 20 house connections of which 15 were metered connections. For 1000 litres of water, 75 paise was charged and for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd taps, Rs.5/-, Rs.7/- and Rs.10/- respectively per month were collected.[218] In the later half of 1960s, there were 47 house service connection of which, 29 were metered system [219] and the water charges were the same as in 1963-64. During 1982-83, there were ten public fountains in good condition. Of the 149 house service connection, 17 were tap system and the rest were of meter system. A sum of Rs.28,380/- was paid to the Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board by the Township Committee as maintenance charge during the year. A free allowance of 300 litres per day was allowed for domestic connection. There was no change in the rates charged for taps. Meters were supplied by the house owners themselves. Two deep borewells were provided under drought relief scheme. Three deep borewells served as additional sources of water supply in this town.[220] In 1990-91 apart from the 12 public fountains in good conditions, there were 233 house service connections, of which, eight were tap system and the remaining were of meter system. Even then, there were no changes in the number of bore wells nor in tax rate from 1982-83. Currently, water is supplied daily for three hours from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m during normal times. During season period, the hours of supply is from 6.00 a.m to 3.00 p.m daily. Pumping is done to Kalaivanar Arangam reservoir from municipal well at Kudiyiruppu water supply TWAD Head Works. There is also another source from top of Courtalam Hills by 100 mm. dia. G.I pipe to bus stand, toilets, hotels, officers and cottages. There are about 264 house service connection. For the former, the water charge is Rs.20/- per month.[221] Thirteen street taps and 15 hand pumps serve the people.

Drainage and Sanitation

For the period 1964-65, there was no underground drainage system implemented in this municipality. There were 829 houses in the town, all of which were provided with latrines. The strength of public health staff as on 31 January 1966 was one sanitary inspector, one public health maistry, one water falls peon and 16 sanitary workers. During season time, 16 sanitary workers, one public health maistry and four watchmen were enployed additionally to meet the increased work load. Six latrines and two dry earth latrines and three urinals were provided in this township.

The garbage, rubbish and night soil were removed using bullock carts either single or double bull cart and wheel barrows. Adequate dustbins were provided in all places wherever necessary and the sanitation of the town was well maintained during this period. There was one compost yard where waste was converted into manure.[222] In 1982-83, there were one sanitary inspector, one water falls peon, one public health maistry and 18 sanitary workers engaged by this township. During this period, additional latrines were constructed and additional sanitary workers (23) were employed during Season. The 982 houses which were in this Township were provided with latrines. For the period 1990-91, there was no drainage scheme in this Township and kutcha drain in all streets and the sullage water were drained into the river. The municipality was maintaining seven latrines and three urinals at different places in town. There were 1017 houses in this township all of which were provided with latrines. One sanitary officer, one supervisor, 23 sanitary workers and a peon were the regular employees of this township who looked after sanitation. During the season, 23 additional sanitary workers were appointed to keep the town free from rubbish and garbages. All the 1917 houses in this township were provided with latrines. Adequate dustbins had been provided in all places. This state of affairs continued even for 1992-93. Night soil and other rubbish are dumped in the compost yard and the sanitary work is carried out with the same strength of workers as in 1990-91. The length of drainage is 20.58 km. of which 13.98 km. were kutcha drains.[223] A burial and burning ghat for Hindus and a burial ground for Christians are maintained by the municipality.[224]

Communications

The township Committee was maintaining four classes of roads during 1965-66. They were 2 furlongs and 430 feet metalled road, 340 feet, unmetalled road, 3 furlongs and 35 feet cement concreted road and 6 furlongs and 19' feet of black topped road. In the important roads heavy traffic caution boards, speed limits, sign boards etc., were provided by this Township Committee which also continued to maintain two bridges near the main Falls and two culverts in Tiger Falls road.[225] In 1982-83, the township was maintaining 0.87 km. of metalled road, 0.62 km. of cement concreted road and 2.80 km. of black topped road. An adhoc grant of Rs.910/- was received during the year 1982-83 for the maintenance of all roads. The Township Committee continue to maintain two bridges in the Five Falls, two culverts in Tiger falls and one culvert in the Exhibition ground.[226]In the year 1990-91, the township committee was maintaining 2.83 km. of metalled road, 0.42 km. of cement concrete road and 4.33 km. of black topped road. An adhoc grant of Rs.1439/- was received during the year for the maintenance of all roads. It continued to maintain two bridges, under the Main Falls, two culverts in Tiger Falls road and

three culverts in the Exhibition ground one in Lakshmipuram and the other in Anna Nagar.[227] At present, this municipality maintains 2.35 km. of metal road, 0.42 km. of concrete road and 7.53 km. of black topped roads. Upkeep of the bridges in town are described to be good.[228]

Lights

There were, as on 31 March 1966, 226 lights consisting of ordinary lights, tube lights and mercury vapour lamps. The expenditure incurred for street lights for this year was Rs.18,100/-. The average cost of maintenance of electric light was Rs.80/- [229]There were 320 lights of various categories as on 31 March 1983. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board continued to supply the electric energy. Expenditure on street lighting during the year was Rs.1,64,635/-. For the year 1990-91for the 292 lights in this township, the expenditure on street lighting was Rs.69,915/- [230]Currently, this municipality maintains 406 lights of various categories.[231]

Public Health

There was a regular dispensary maintained by this Township. The cost of maintenance of dispensary was Rs.5905/- during 1965-66. The payment and allowances of the medical officer was met by Government. The Township Committee also maintained a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. The number of births attended to by the maternity assistant during this period was 25. The number of births and deaths registered during this time was 26 and 11 respectively. The total number of people vaccinated was 25.[232] The Township Committee continued the maintenance of the dispensary in the rental building in Shencottah Road. It had one pharmacist, one male nursing orderly and Sweeper-cum-watchman. The average daily attendance during the year 1982-83 was 57, there was one maternity assistant and one ayah attached to this township dispensary and they had attended 57 births during 1982-83. Antenatal cases were also inspected by the maternity assistant. The number of births and deaths registered were 57 and 5 during 1982-83. The entire population had been vaccinated with the same staff as that in 1982-83. The average attendance during this period, i.e. 1990-91 was 86. The sanitary inspector post was upgraded as sanitary officer during 1990. The number of deliveries attended were 24. The daily average attendance in this dispensary was 50. The town was free from epidemic diseases also. [234] At present, there is one maternity centre attached with the dispensary. Apart from this, there is one allopathy dispensary too. A medical officer is appointed by Government to this dispensary. There is one pharmacist, one ayah, a male nursing assistant and a night watchman and they are maintained by this municipality. Vaccination against measles, BCG, DPT, TT, Polio are given to the children at regular intervals.[235]

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Education

The Township Committee maintained a junior basic school with good standards. 120 children studied in that school. The total expenditure on education was Rs.5155/-. There was no secondary school under the control of this township.[236] This was the position of this township regarding education during the period 1964-65. Though no secondary school was maintained by this township, there was one girls' high school with boarding facilities maintained by Panpoli Thirumalaikumaraswamy Devasthanam. There was also one Arts College for women known as Parasakthi College with hostel facilities within the township limit. These two institutions continue to function till now. In 1982-83, the township maintained primary schools and there were 138 boys and girls studying in it. This school was inspected by the executive officer, regularly. Books were supplied to the backward class students free of cost by the Harijan Welfare Department. The total expenditure on education was Rs.45,170/- One public library was maintained by local library authority within the township committee.[237] From 1 April 1990, the elementary school was handed over to Government education department.[238] At present, one primary school, one high school and one higher secondary school are functioning in this municipality. In these, fifty boys and 40 girls in the primary school and 390 girls in the High Schools and higher secondary schools are studying. There are two nutritious noon meal centres here, one for the children in the age group of two to four years old and the other for the children in the age group of five and above to 10 years old. 110 children are fed in these two centres daily.[239]

Remunerative Enterprises

There was no market maintained by the Township Committee. The Thirukutralanathaswamy temple Devasthanam has constructed a market in the site which belong to them. The Township continued to maintain the bus stand with one Canteen, one stall, four lockers room and seven retiring rooms.[240] Two blocks of dressing rooms near Main falls and near Five Falls were maintained by the Township Committee. A sum of Rs.2710/- were realised from them. The Township Committee continued to maintain a good park, just above the bus stand, which is centrally situated at an elevated level and attracts visitors. A children's park with all other accessaries is also attached to this park. There is a rock near the park where large gatherings are seen in the evening. This is called Marina of Courtallam. A radio is provided in the park to entertain its visitors. A new park which has been formed along the margin of Main Falls Road, deer park, Gandhi park which has an aquarium, Gandhi and Radhakrishna statues are more attractive. The maintenance of these parks was done at a cost of Rs.9152/- during 1965-66.[241] Private buses are plying between Courtallam, Shencottah and Tenkasi. During season, the number of buses

are increased. Rs.5/- per Tourist bus and Rs.2/- for the Government bus were collected as a bus stand fee which amounted to Rs.18,350/- during 1982-83. A sum of Rs.29,865/- was spent on the maintenance of parks during this period. The Township Committee continued to maintain the two blocks of dressing rooms the Main Falls and Five Falls. Rs.6029/- was collected as a rent from these dressing rooms. A rent of Rs.2506/- was collected for the lockers. A sum of Rs.14,995/- on the whole were realised by renting the stalls, etc., during 1982-83.[242] In the year 1990-91 the department has collected Rs.78,890/- as bus fees and the bus stand fee is rupees two per bus. A sum of Rs.58,700/- were spent on the maintenance of parks. Two car parking areas are maintained by this Township Committee and a sum of Rs.3,51,760/- were realised through them. The Committee continued to maintain choultry with 25 rooms, the travellers' bungalow, lockers and halls. By way of rent, etc., during this period, the township realised a sum of Rs.1,01,150/- At present, a bus stand, six rest houses with 140 rooms, 52 cottages, an auditorium, three parks, one siren, a slaughter house, etc., are maintained by this municipality and it receives Rs.14,81,468/- as rent from these buildings for the period 1994-95.

Fairs and Festivals

The major festivals Aippasi vishu, Chithirai vishu and Margali Thiruvathirai are celebrated every year by Thirukutralanatha swamy Devasthanam. The municipality makes special sanitary arrangements during this period. "Saral Thiruvizha" is also celebrated every year during the season time.

Food Adulteration and Dangerous and Offensive trades:

Hotels, Sweet shops, etc., are licensed by this municipality under Tamilnadu District Municipalities Act and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. During 1964-65, 49 samples were taken for testing, of which, eight were found to be adulterated. One hundred and seventy five dangerous and offensive trades were licensed during the year 1964-65 and Rs.2659/- was collected as licence fee, [243] and in 1982-83, Rs.1555/- was collected as licence fee under the Act and 183 trades were licenced. Rs.5311/- was collected as licence fee for 1982-83.[244] A sum of Rs.3140/- and Rs.9,803/- were collected as licence fees under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Dangerous and Offensive Trade Act. Two hundred and thirty four trades were licensed during 1990-91.[245] For 1994-95, 226 licenses were issued under the above heads and Rs.13,348/- was collected as license fees.[246]

Finance

For the period 1964-65, the total receipts was Rs.2,35,519/- and the total expenditure was Rs.2,45,813/- [247]In 1982-83, the receipts

amounted to Rs.28,18,499/- while the expenditure was Rs.27,86,859/-[248] whereas in 1990-91, the total receipts were Rs.48,51,300/- and the total expenditure were Rs.42,92,726/- [249] In 1992-93 while the total receipts were Rs.1,19,76,246/- the total expenditure was Rs.91,84,973/-. In 1993-94, the receipts were Rs.1,30,65,851/- and the expenditure was Rs.1,60,64,055/-. In 1994-95, the total receipts were Rs.91,40,460/- and the expenditure amounted to Rs.91,84,167/-.[250]

Sankarankoil Municipality

Sankarankoil which was a selection grade panchayat till 31 March 1964 was upgraded as third grade Municipality with effect from 1 April 1964.[251]On 13 November 1978 it was further upgraded as a second grade municipality. The jurisdiction of this municipal council comprises of the entire revenue village of Sankarankoil having a total area of 11.4 sq.km. It is comprised of 24 wards among which one each is reserved for SC/STs and women respectively and the rest are general wards. Its total population was 24,177 as per the 1961 census; 32994 as per 1971 census and 42084 in 1981 and is 48789 as per the 1991 census.

Water Supply

The Government have sanctioned a comprehensive water scheme introduced during 1964-65, to the Sankarankoil, Pulliangudi and certain roadside village panchayats at an estimated cost of Rs.31-39 lakhs. Before this, this municipality was provided with 89 public fountains.[252]The main source of water maintained by the TamilNadu Water Supply and Sewarage Board is obtained from Kottamaliyar river in the western ghats.Tambaraparani river near Nanthanthatti village is another source of water supplied to this municipality. There are six infiltration wells in this town provide water to Sankarankoil Municipality, Alangulam RTP and 88 way side villages.This water supply scheme is maintained by T.W.A.D Board. Both these sources can supply 45 lakh litres of water per day but at present only 35 lakhs litres of water per day alone is supplied. The per capita supply of water is 70 litres. At present there are 108 public fountains and 3550 house service connections. Of these 2709 are tap connections and Rs.20 per tap per month is charged as water rate. The rest 841 are metered connections and rupees two are charged for 1000 litres of water. There are three over head tanks in this town having 12 lakh litres storage capacity.[253] During the drought period drinking water is supplied through the lorries, street by street.

Drainage and Sanitation

Only partial drainage system exists in this area. At present, 10.540 kms length of pucca drains and 15.250 km of katcha drains are functioning in this town.[254] For sanitation purposes the entire town has been divided

into two sanitary divisions and each division was under the control of one sanitary inspector with two sanitary maistries each. There were 25 scavengers, 21 sweepers, five drain cleaners and 15 cart drivers maintained by the municipal council in 1965-66.[255] Collection and transport of rubbish was done by men with bullock carts and hand carts. During 1965 "Concentrated Conservancy Work" was introduced in the town. According to this every Friday afternoon, from 2.30 .p.m to 5.30 p.m all the sanitary workers of the two divisions were made to work in one division. At that time all the streets, lanes, and the bylanes of that division were thoroughly cleared and this gained the appreciation of the public. 1265 metric tonnes of compost were manufactured during 1965-66. This municipality was maintaining six single bullock rubbish carts. One double bullock rubbish cart, 18 single bull sewage carts, 3 hand drawing night soil carts, one single bull night soil cart and 17 wheel barrows to keep the town free from rubbish and garbages.[256] There were 13 public latrines out of which one was flushout type. Out of 7081 residential houses in this town, 1598 were provided with latrines. In 1982-83 one lorry, one tractor, one trailor, and eight rubbish carts were pressed into service for removing the garbages in the town.[257] Similarly there were 12 dry latrines and nine flushouts maintained by this municipality. 3000 houses were having dry latrines and 910 houses were provided with flushouts.[258] Three sanitary inspectors and two Health Assistants were supervising the sanitary work.[259] At present the total length of katcha drain is 15.250 km. There are two pay and use public conveniences, 97 sanitary workers engaged by the municipality to keep the town free from dust, rubbish and sewage water.[260] Three lorries one tractor and six carts are engaged in removing the garbages to compost yard.[261]

Communications

The length of the roads under the maintenance of this council at the end of 1967 was 1 furlong 455 feets cement concrete roads, 1 mile 3 furlong 380 feet bitumen road, 3 miles, 5 furlong 534 feets metalled road, and 10 miles 7 furlong and 653 feets gravelled road. Sufficient repairs were done to this road during this period.[262] In 1984-85 this municipality was maintaining 7.120 km of earthern road, 7.841 kms of metalled road, 16.161 km black topped roads, 3.732 kms of cement concrete road and in total this municipality was maintaining 34.854 km length of various kinds of roads in this town. For that period it incurred an expenditure of Rs.1,45,672 for the maintenance of these roads. The maintenance charge per km. of road amounted to Rs.4,179.[263] In 1993, 8.284 km of metal roads, 5.709 km of gravel road, 16.161 km. of black topped road, and 4,700 km of concrete road were under the maintenance of this municipality. Rs.91046 was the maintenance charges for this year.[264] At present this municipality is maintaining 4.700 km of cement concrete road 16.770 km

of black topped road, 8.034 km of metal roads and 5.549 km of earthern road making a total length of 34.834 km of roads under the maintenance of this municipality.[265]

Lights

During 1967, the municipality maintained 23 mercury vapour lights, 368 ordinary lights and 130 tube lights. The net receipts from lighting tax for the year amounted to Rs.16,703 and the expenditure was Rs.21312.[266] In 1984-85 there were 7 ordinary lights, 429 tube lights, 11 mercury vapour lights illuminating the town, which was done at a cost of Rs.8750. In 1993, 60 sodium vapour lights, 897 tube lamps (1 x 140 w) and 12 mercury vapour lights were under the upkeep of this municipality. Similarly, in 1995 there were 871 lights comprising 11 mercury lights, 787 tube lights, and 73 sodium vapour lights.[267]

Public Health

In 1967 there was no hospital or dispensary maintained by the municipal council. There was one government hospital to take care of health requirements of the public.The health assistant was attending to the registration of births and deaths and vaccinations. The total births and deaths registered during the year was 704 and 284 respectively. There was one maternity and Child Welfare Centre maintained by the Council. A sum of Rs.3854 was spent for maternity and child welfare during this period. It was really appreciable that this town was free from cholera, small pox etc. during this time,[268] At present there are two maternity centres, one public hospital, 10 dispensaries with 20 staff functioning in this municipal town. At the time of floods and other natural calamities the municipality has taken steps to tighten the chlorination work in all the sources of protected drinking water. Anti cholera innoculation has been taken for the public to control the spread of cholera. Immunisation programme is being implemented to control the six diseases namely Tuberculosis Poliomyilitis, Tetanus, Diphtherea, whooping cough and Measles in the town.[269]

Education

Compulsory education was in force for boys and girls. To cater to the needs of the children, six schools were maintained by the Council. Three of them were higher elementary schools and three were elementary schools. The total average number of pupils who attended the municipal schools was 1395. All the municipal schools were asccessible to the members of the backward and scheduled classes. Midday meals scheme was in force and a total of 258 poor pupils studying in these municipal schools were provided with midday meals. A reading room was maintained by the Council at a cost of Rs.1971. There were two libraries one under the control of local library authority and the other run by

Sankaranarayanaswami Devasthanam.[270]During 1982-85 there were three municipal elementary schools, seven private elementary schools, four municipal higher elementary schools, two private higher elementary schools, and two government higher secondary schools in this municipality providing education to the children in this town.[271]In 1990, all the schools were brought under the control of Government. In 1994 there were three primary and four middle schools imparting education to 1390 boys and 1059 girls. There were 15 nutritious noon meal centres feeding 1200 children in this town.[272] Now there are 10 primary schools, seven middle schools, one high school, two higher seondary schools and 3145 pupils in middle schools, 540 pupils in high schools and 2765 pupils in higher secondary schools are studying in them. Among these 4941 are boys and 4624 are girls. One public library is being maintained by the local library authority. There are 15 nutritious noon meal centres feeding 950 children.[273]

Remunerative Enterprises

In 1965-66 the Council maintained one daily market and one weekly market. A sum of Rs.10274/- was realised as income during this period under this head while the expenditure was Rs.2648. There was one private cart stand and a licence fee of Rs.40 had been collected. During this period, the council also maintained a bus stand at the main road in a land rented for Rs.100/- per month. The income from the stalls situated inside the bus stand site was Rs.2020. Bus stand fees were collected departmentally. A slaughter house too was maintained by this council, and Rs.1068/- was derived as income. A sum of Rs.1,464 was realised as licence fees for mutton stalls during 1965-66.[274] At present, there are a market, a bus stand, seven play grounds, one siren, a slaughter house and one community hall in this town, catering to the needs of the people. The receipts from markets and slaughter houses were Rs.308701 in 1991-92 Rs.406731 in 1992-93 and Rs.437284 in 1993-94.[275]

Fairs and Festivals

The *Adi Thapasu* festival is the notified festival held during every year in July and August. Special sanitary and water supply arrangements and streetlight arrangements have been made for the welfare of the pilgrims. Apart from this cattle fair is also conducted in this town.[276]

Food Adulterations and Dangerous Trades

In 1965-66, 48 food samples were sent for analysis of which 11 were found adulterated.[277]All the adulterated cases were prosecuted and a fine of Rs.585 was imposed on the offenders. All hotels, eating houses and sweet meat shops were duly licensed under the provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act. The Dangerous and Offensive Trades within the municipal limits were licensed imposing suitable conditions which were

strictly enforced in the interest of public health. In 1994, 2000 licences were issued which fetched an income of Rs.99096.[278] In 1995 under the same heads 1310 licences were issued and Rs.1,04,648 [279] was derived as income.

Finance

During 1965-66, the receipts were amounted to Rs.7,50,071 and the expenditure was Rs.7,63,765. The incidence of taxation was Rs.8.21. The income of the municipality for the year 1991-92 was Rs.3740696, for 1992-93 it was Rs.4121485 and for 1993-94 it was Rs.3229603.

Tenkasi Municipality

The Tenkasi Town Panchayat comprising the revenue villages of Tenkasi and Pulliyur was constituted into a Municipality with effect from 1st April 1965.[280] It was classified as Grade-III municipality and it covers an area of 26.158 sq.km. with a total population of 34,403 (1961 census)at that time. Then, the strength of its Council was 24.[281] On 16th April, 1977, it was upgraded as Grade-II municipality and its population was 42627(1971 census) and it was 49214 as per 1981 census, and as per 1991 census its population was 55044. This municipality is divided into 20 wards, of which one each is reserved for SC/STs and women.[282]

Water Supply

Tenkasi Water Supply Scheme was commissioned in the year 1962 at an estimated cost of Rs.26.90 lakhs. The quality of water received from the source is very good for health. Daily the municipality supplies 15 lakh litres of water. During the rainy season, the water is drawn directly from the hills by gravitation while during summer, it is pumped, using two 30 H.P.electrical motor pump from the summer storage tank which is situated at Kudiyirupu, four km.from Tenkasi town. Water is pumped for eight hours daily. There are two reservoirs, one at Abathpallivasal street (meant for high level zone) with a capacity of 3.60 lakh litres and the other at Malayan Street, which is to supply water for the low level zone with a capacity of 5.60 lakh litres, Water stored in the head work is filled to these reservoirs daily through distribution mains, the length of which is 26 km.

During 1965-66, the municipality had 102 public fountains, maintained at a cost of Rs.1586.71. Besides this, it paid an annuity of Rs.781801 towards the loan obtained from Government. The total number of house service connections was 599.[283] During 1989-90, there were 103 public fountains and 92 deep bore wells. Apart from this, 2301 house service connections are also functioning here. For 1000 litres of water for household purposes one rupee and for other purposes, two rupees were collected. During this period, Rs.132125/-was the expenditure incurred

for drinking water facilities.[284] At present, there are 104 public fountains, 2301 house service connections, of which, 425 are metered connections and for the rest a flat rate of Rs.1815 is collected. Apart from 61 non-domestic connections in this area, there are 119 deep wells and five motor fitted open wells, which supply water to the uncovered areas. It receives Rs.1,63,662/- as income from water charges as against an expenditure of Rs.2,92,453/- to maintain water supply.[285]

Drainage and Sanitation

There is no drainage scheme in the municipal area, but most of the drains are open, provided with impervious flooring. In 1966, the public health staff consisted of two sanitary inspectors, two health assistants, four sanitary maisteries, one care-taker of bulls, one tractor driver, twenty nine sweepers, nine public scavengers, nine private scavengers, nine compost scavengers and one drainage mazdoor. The total number of public latrines in the municipal area was 22. Of these, two are dry earth type, 16 trench type and four are septic tank type. Out of 8900 residential houses, 805 houses were provided with private latrines. A compost yard with an extent of 3.6 acres situated in Tenkasi-Ambasamudram road is maintained by the municipality. 948 metric tonnes of compost was manufactured under Bangalore method during the year 1965-66, from the sale of this manure, Rs.1649/- was realised, and from the sale of pig manure, Rs.2844/- was realised.[286]In 1989-90, the working force was two sanitary supervisors, four sanitary inspectors, one lorry driver, one tractor driver, one care taker of bulls and 105 scavengers. There were 22 public conveniences for the use of the public. Out of 14400 houses, 13900 houses were provided with private latrines. Mosquito eradication was given more importance in this municipality and Rs.15000/- was spent for this scheme. A total expenditure of Rs.121252/- was incurred for this activity. During this period, pig manure sale fetched a revenue of Rs.15310/-. [287] At present, there are 106 sanitary workers and 42 conservancy staff. The total length of pucca drain was to a length of 31.80 km. and that of kutcha drain was 13.62 km. There are two *pay and use* public conveniences.[288] The expenditure incurred for the above purposes amounted to Rs.1,39,283/- By sale of compost, Rs.1280/- was collected.[289]

Communications

Certain roads in the municipal area are maintained by the municipality. The total length of roads and streets maintained by the municipality during 1965-66 was 27 miles 4 furlongs, of which 7 miles were metalled, 3 1/2 furlongs were cement concreted and the rest were gravelled. For this period, a sum of Rs.37,391 was spent on the maintenance of roads.[290]For the period, 1989-90, this municipality was maintaining 45.4312 km. of roads, of which, 24.505 km. were tar roads, 5.556 km. were cement

roads, 6.740 km. were metalled and 8.571 km. were gravelled and the rest were earthern (mud) roads. For maintenance of roads, Rs.84,933.60 was incurred as expenditure.[291] During 1992-93, the length of roads maintained by this municipality was 45.432 km. Of this, black topped road was 24.505 km. cement concrete 5.556 km. metal road 9,940 km, gravelled 5.371 km. and other types of road 0.060 km. During 1995 - 96 year, Rs.270302 had been spent for maintenance of roads and Rs.298690 had been spent for capital works.[292]

Lights

This municipality maintained 654 electric street lights inclusive of 20 mercury vapour lamps and 78 fluroscent twin tube lamp during 1965-66. The charges for the energy consumed were paid on flat rate basis. An expenditure of Rs.30,1661 was incurred for this purpose for the period.[293] In 1989-90, there were 840 '40-watts- tube lights and 71'125 watts' mercury vapour lights and one sodium vapour lamp and in total, there were 912 lights illuminating this town. For the maintenance of these lamps, the municipality spent Rs.1,33,343.20.[294] For the period 1992-93, 974 lights were maintained by this municipality in this town. In that 889 are tubelights, 75 mercury lights and 9 Halogen lamps. The total expenditure incurred during the year for the maintenance of the lights amounted to Rs.1,91,930.[295]

Public Health

Apart from the Government hospital in this area, that takes care of the health of the people, the municipal council maintains three maternity and child welfare centres. Three maternity assistants and three ayahs are employed by this municipality. The total number of labour cases attended by them during the year 1965-66 were 473. Skimmed milk powder were distributed to 30 persons daily in each maternity centre since 28 January 1966. 1763 births and 363 deaths were registered during the period 1965-66. Vaccination work was also attended to by them. During the year 1965-66, the total number of vaccination done were 6008 including primary and re-vaccinations.[296] During 1989-90, 568 labour cases were attended in the three maternity and child welfare centres. For the upkeep of these centres, the municipality spent Rs.1,29,731/- The total number of births and deaths registered were 2661 and 360 respectively.[297] During 1992-93, 462 labour cases were attended to by the staff in the above maternity centres and Rs.87,827/- was the expenditure incurred for the maintenance of these maternity centres. One fourth of this expenditure is received as a grant from the Government. There was no epidemic diseases in this municipality during 1992-93. The number of births and deaths registered during 1992-93 were 3227 and 425 respectively. Since small-pox has been eradicated from India itself, vaccination was not done.[298] To

prevent the diseases during epidemics, famines, floods and other natural calamities anti-cholera innoculation work is carried out in this town. Public wells and other reservoirs are cholorinated periodically.

Education

The municipality plays a significant role in providing education to children. During 1965-66, the municipality maintained one higher elementary school and three elementary schools. Compulsory elementary education is in force in this area. The percentage of attendance to the strength in the municipal schools was 73. All the municipal schools were accessible to all the communities. Midday meals were served in 22 elementary schools in the municipal area with the aid of collection made from the public and from the grant sanctioned by the Government. The municipal council was paying a contribution of two paise per meal. 1000 poor pupils studying in all the elementary schools in the town were supplied with midday meals. This municipality maintained three libraries with free reading rooms. During the year 1965-66, an expenditure of Rs.5332/- was incurred for the maintenance of libraries and free reading rooms. The local library authority maintains a branch library and a reading room too in this area.[299] All the schools from April, 1990, were handed over to the Government and hence, currently, no school is maintained by the municipality. During 1992-93, this municipality maintained a reading room which subscribes to seven dailies, six weeklies and two monthilies for the benefit of its readers.[300] Nutritious noon-meal scheme was introduced in this municipality from 15 September 1982. Under this scheme, at present, there are 17 centres which feed 710 children.

Remunerative Enterprisess

In 1965-66, the municipality maintained a weekly market, the income from which was Rs. 3149/- A sum of Rs.1247/-was spent on the maintenance of the market. Similarly, it also maintained a bus stand of its own with five stalls. The total number of buses per day calling at the bus stand was 70. A fee of 25 paise per bus per day was collected. During 1965-66, the income under this head was Rs.17,354/- whreas the expenditure on maintenance of this was Rs.10,881/- which included the annuity of Rs.4518/- towards the loan obtained from Government. A slaughter house was run by this municipality which collected fee of 50 paise per animal slaughtered. The income under this head for the period 1965-66 was Rs.4031/-. A sum of Rs.2566/- was spent on the maintenance of the slaughter house. The municipality maintains three parks with radio sets installed therein. During 1965-66, a sum of Rs.1246/- was spent for the upkeep of the parks. A electric siren also functioned for the benefit of the people.[301] During 1989-90, a weekly shandy and a daily shandy were run by this municipality; Rs.91,760/- was the income derived from these

two shandies. A bus stand was also maintained by this municipality and one rupee was collected as fee for each bus that touches this bus stand and Rs.1,02,000/-was collected as charges (by lease) from the buses plying from this municipality to other places. The shops in the bus stand that are let out, fetch a sum of Rs.1,14,344/- per year. From 1st October 1989, two rupees each from the buses that halted in the bus stand are collected. For taking bath and using public convenience the users are charged. During this period, Rs.1,06,820/- was the income derived from these.[302] There were four parks maintained by this municipality. Three parks were provided with radios. Rs.32,217/- was spent for its upkeep. During 1992-93, also, this municipality is maintaining a weekly and daily shandy from which Rs.89,480/- are derived as income. A bus stand maintained by this, is leased out and Rs.1,90,558/- is collected from the lease. Rs.1,02,993/- is collected as rent from the shops in the bus stand and Rs.66,881/- is spent for their maintenance. As in the previous period, there are four parks maintained by the municipality and three are provided with radio facilities. All these years, the municipality works a Siren which is switched on periodically. Rs.42,037/- was incurred as expenditure for the maintenance of this park.[303]Three burning ghats, for Hindus, are maintained by the municipality. Apart from these, there are six other burning ghats for Hindus, one burial ground for christians and six burial grounds for Muslims.

Fairs and Festivals

Every year, church festival is held during the month of September in this municipal area.The municipality makes proper sanitary arrangements, provides temporary latrines and urinals,etc., [304]

Food Adulteration and other Dangerous Trades

Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is enforced by the Municipality. The Sanitary Inspector is in-charge of it and takes at least six samples per month for test. A sum of Rs.2317/- was realised as licence fees under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act during the year 1965-66. For the same period, 950 persons were issued with licences under Dangerous and Offensive Trades and Rs.9967/- was derived as income.[305]Similarly, during 1989-90, under the Act, 72 samples were taken for test.Of these five, were proved adulterated. Under this Act, 1205 licences were issued which fetched Rs.49,616/-[306] During 1992-93, 46 samples were taken for test of which two were proved adulterated. Under Dangerous and Offensive Trades and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act by issuing licenses Rs.80,715/- were collected as fees.[307]

Finance

The total income of this municipality for the period 1965-66 was Rs.5,05,225/- and the total expenditure amounted to Rs.3,18,462/-.[308]

In 1989-90, the total income amounted to Rs.111,57,131.74 and the total expenditure was Rs.89,97,078.15.[309] For 1992-93, the total income amounted to Rs.1,13,74,927.77and the total expenditure was Rs.1,02,59,145.50.[310]

Puliangudi Municipality

Puliangudi is constituted as a third grade municipality on 1st April 1965.[311] The municipality which has a total area of 35,166 sq.km. is divided into 24 wards among which one each is reserved for women and SC/STs. Its total population as per 1971 census was 38735 and which went upto 43998 in 1981 and increased to 53206 in 1991.

Water Supply

This municipality supplies protected water to its people, having a resource in the Kattumalayar river. A comprehensive water supply scheme was introduced in 1974 covering the water needs of Puliangudi and Sankarankoil municipality. The distance between the head works and the town is 13 km. and the distance between the head works and the nearest substation is 15 km. An additional water supply source is maintained at Vannanthurai through the three open wells from which water is pumped and stored in two over head tanks for distribution to Puliangudi public. In 1984 there were 18 handbore pumps, three jet pumps and two over head tanks with the total capacity of 11.375 lakh litres.[312] During 1986, 18.2 lakh litres of water were supplied from these sources by this municipality. 15 litres of water is supplied per head in this town. There were 919 metered and 1581 unmetered connections and 51 public fountains in the town during 1985-86.[313] Rupees six is charged per tap per month. In the case of metered taps for 1000 litres of water for domestic use rupee one is charged per month and for the same amount used for non-domestic purposes, rupees two are charged for a month.[314] Now there are 3000 house connections and 50 street taps. Per day 10 lakh litres of water is required, but only 22 lakh litres are pumped.[315] One power tiller was used for supply of drinking water to the unserved area and noon meal centres.

Drainage and Sanitation

The municipality does not have a proper drainage scheme but only katcha drains are available to a total length of 15,807 meters.[316] There is only one pay and use latrine at bus stand maintained by the municipality. There are 51 scavengers engaged by the municipality in this town.[317] The municipality have one lorry, one tractor with trailer and two bullock carts and one water cart. Lorry, tractor and two bullock carts are used for the removal of rubbish and garbages. One cart is used for supplying water to noon meal centres. There are two sanitary inspectors, one health assistant and three public health maistries to take care of sanitary conditions of the town.

Communications

The municipality maintains various categories of roads. In 1984-85, 23.86 km of earthern roads, 9.780 km of metalled roads, 8.580 km of black topped road and 2.12 km of cement roads were maintained by this municipality. For this, it had to spend Rs.5,00,000 during this period[318] whereas in 1994-95, 24,562 km of gravel roads 6.503 km of black topped roads and 2.9657 km of concrete roads are under the upkeep of this municipality.[319]

Lights

In 1984 there were 686 electric lights illuminating the streets of this town. In that 666 were tubelights, six were mercury vapour lights and the expenditure incurred for this was Rs.25430.[320] Now there are 50 mercury lights 781 tube lights and two halogen lamps under the maintenance of this municipality. 2.5 per cent of housetax is utilised for the maintenance of lights in this municipality.[321]

Public Health

There is one maternity centre and a dispensary having a doctor and a helper.[322] Six burning ghats and six burial grounds for Hindus, one burial ground for Christians and two burial grounds for Muslims are here and all are maintained privately.

Education

At present there are 17 primary schools 10 middle schools, four High schools and seven Higher Secondary schools imparting education to the pupil. 24 nutritious noon meal centres functioning here cater to 1595 children. There is one public library within this town.

Remunerative Enterprises

Two bus stands, a market and a slaughter house are located here. A siren and two television sets are maintained for the benefit of the people.

Food Adulteration and Dangerous and Offensive trades

During 1994-95, 656 licences were issued under these heads and the Municipality derived an income of Rs.39919 from the licence fees.

Finance

The income for 1994-95 was Rs.84,09,807 and Rs.79,61596 was its expenditure for this period.

Kadayanallur Municipality

Kadayanallur was constituted as Grade III Municipality on 1st October 1966[323] and subsequently upgraded as second grade municipality

on 1st April 1984. The total area of this municipality is 52.25 sq.km. It remains the same till now. There are 33 wards, of which 31 are for general public and one each is reserved for SC/STs and women.The total population as per 1971 census was 50295 which rose to 60306 in 1981 and 68,805 in 1991. The revenue villages namely Kadayanallur, Krishnapuram and Vairavankulam and a part aof Kambanari and Puthukudi villages make Kadayanallur municipality.

Water Supply

Kadayanallur municipality was provided with protected water supply. Four open wells located at various places in this town have been supplying water supply to this municipal area since 1961. From them they supplied 5.0 lakhs litres of water per day for a population of 41,249 through public taps. When the population increased, the demand water supply were increased and additional sources of water supply was planned in the year 1973. Two infiltration wells and one collection well cum pump room were erected at the head works and this new sources were designed for pumping 54 lakhs litres per day. The four wells which were the important sources of water were abandoned now since the water in them was salaine and impure due to chemicals and bacterias. During 1982-83, 3677103 litres of water was pumped per day to be used by the public. At that time there were 2502 house taps connections and 151 public taps were in the town.[324] In 1993, the total water supplied on alternative days in the town was 24 lakh litres. Per capita water supply was 34.88 litres. 167 public fountains and 5300 house service connections were in existence. Out of this 2290 connections were metered and 3010 were unmetered. Apart from this there were 36 borewells and 45 open wells which were used for purposes other than drinking.[325]

In 1995 the normal supply of water is 40 to 50 lakh litres per day and the daily requirement is 48.16 lakh litres. 172 street taps, 3010 tap connections are existing at present. Of these 2176 are domestic and 114 are non-domestic connections. The main source of water supply is Periyar river bed. Rs.20 is charged as tap rate per month. Metered domestic tap rate is Rs.20.50 per month and non-domestic Rs.40.50 and commercial Rs.60.50 per month are collected, in this municipality. 59 litres of water are supplied per head per day.[326] There are three reservoirs and 41 borewells in this town.

Drainage and Sanitation

The underground drainage system is not in vogue in the municipality. The drainage water is collected in septic tanks and then removed by carts. In 1982-83, Rs.24,647/- was collected as tax from drainage account. One lorry, seven bullock carts, eight wheel barrows, one sewage cart, 20 dustbins and two water carts were pressed into service to keep the town clean.

One Sanitary Inspector and 45 sanitary workers were engaged for maintaining cleanliness. There were six public conveniences and two urinals maintained by this municipality. Compost yard is also maintained to prepare compost manure, which is sold to public. During 1982-83, Rs.15404 was the income derived by this municipality from conservancy rate.[327] In 1993, the total length of katcha drains was 13.12 kms. The municipality was maintaining two pay and use latrines. Low cost sanitation scheme has been implemented in this town.[328] In 1995, 51 sanitary workers are employed by this municipality to keep the town clean. Apart from this, it is maintaining 1 public latrine, six screen wall latrines, two urinals and three pay and use latrines. 1068 houses are having latrines. The length of drainage is 37 km. The total amount of expenditure incurred for the maintenance of the above was Rs.19,91,303. There are three mini lorries available for conservancy work of this town.[329]

Communications

During 1982-83 The municipality maintained the roads of various categories to a length of 50.130 kms. Of this, black topped road was 1.9860 kms, blue metal road was to a length of 29.943 km, concrete road was of 1.090 km, gravel road was to a length of 14.875 km. and mud road was to a length of 2.262 km. Rs.112083 were spent for the maintenance of these roads.[330] In 1993, the municipality maintained 25,213 km. of metal, 2.413 km of gravel, 2.162 km. of concrete and 20.342 km. of black topped roads. The maintenance charges were Rs.1,24,657.[331] In 1995, the municipality is maintaining 50.130 km total length of roads. Of this, 26.910 km are black topped 20.712 km are W.B.M roads, 2.162 km are concrete roads and 0.346 km are earthern surface roads. Rupees two lakhs are incurred as maintenance charges.[332]

Lights

In 1982-83, 752 lights were illuminating this town. This consists of 558 ordinary lights, 178 tube lights and 16 very bright lights. Rs.49035 were spent for the maintenance.[333] In 1993 there were 1107 tube lights and 20 mercury lamps in this town. Rs.1,17,767 were collected as lighting tax for the period 1992-93.[334] At present there are 1148 lights maintained in this town by this municipality. Of these, 1128 are tube lights and 20 are mercury vapour lamps. Rs.3076648 are collected as tax on lights.[335]

Public Health

The municipality does not run a hospital while one hospital is run by Government the rest are run by private doctors. The municipality takes care of sanitation and hygiene of the area. It is also responsible for registering births and deaths in its jurisdiction. The number of births and deaths registered during the period 1982-83 [336] were 1390 and 274

respectively. During that time the municipality was maintaining two maternity centres in this town. 194 deliveries were conducted in these maternity centres. At present there is one primary health centre at Chokanpatti. The town is covered under universal immunisation programme. The children under a year are given BCG, DPT, OPV, Measles vaccines etc., Pregnant women are given Tetanus Toxoid vaccine while school children are given Tetanus Toxoid and Diptheria tetanus vaccine.[337] Six Hindu burning ghats, 11 Hindu burial grounds, three christian burial grounds and 6 muslim burial grounds are there for disposing the dead.

Education

While the municipality was running two schools, 17 were run by private persons. Of the two schools, one was a primary school and the other was a middle school. There were 625 children studying in these municipal schools. From 15th September 1982 Chief Ministers Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme was introduced and 21 noon meal centres were functioning to feed the school children.There were two Government High Schools having strength of 1468 pupil. Apart from this, there were 10 reading rooms maintained by this municipality in this town and Rs.3694 was spent for the maintenance of these reading rooms in 1982-83. In 1990 all the schools were run by the Government. This town was having nine primary schools, nine middle schools, one high school and three higher secondary schools. Totally 6778 boys and 5626 girls studied in 1993. Two branches of the District Central Library are located here. There was neither a reading room nor an adult education centre. There were 21 child welfare centres and two school noon meal centres which fed 966 children below four years and 325, above four to nine years respectively. In 1995 this municipality was providing accommodation to one primary and one middle school where 208 and 482 children respectively were studying. There were 17 reading rooms maintained by the municipality. The municipality had 21 nutritious noon meal centres feeding 838 children above two years but below four years. There were two schools having nutritious noon meal centres feeding children from five to nine years of age. Under this scheme 267 students are fed.[338]

Remunerative Enterprises

A daily shandy and a weekly shandy were functioning in this town catering to the day to day requirements of the people. Rs.68010 were derived as income from these shandies for 1982-83. A bus stand in the municipal area brought an income of Rs.27284 for the year 1982-83. There was a slaughter house under the maintenance of this municipality which earned an income of Rs.7020 for the period 1982-83.[339]This town was kept green by maintaining various avenue trees. By sale of their products Rs.17348 was earned. In 1993 two markets and a bus stand

were maintained by the municipality. Apart from these, there were three parks also, under its maintenance. Three radios were maintained by the municipality for entertaining the public. The income derived from markets and slaughter house amounted to Rs.1,82,503 for 1992-93.[340] At present there are one daily market, one weekly market, one slaughter house and one bus stand in this town and the municipality has earned Rs.2,59,690 from them for the year 1994-95. The municipality is maintaining three parks, a siren informing time, and three radios for entertaining the people.

Food Adulteration Cases and Dangerous Trades

In 1982-83, 40 samples were taken to examine them for adulteration. In that four were proved as adulterated stuff. Under prevention of food adulteration Act, 161 licences were issued and the total licence fees amounted to Rs.3385. Under dangerous and Offensive Trade Act, 871 licences were issued and Rs.20621.50 was derived as licence fee for the period 1982-83.[341] In 1993, 979 licences were issued and Rs.74,129 was collected as licence fee.[342] In 1995, 881 licences have been issued under this Act and Rs.75360 have been collected as licence fees. Similarly under prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 604 licences has been issued on which Rs.15125 have been earned as licence fee.[343]

Finance

Income of this municipality during 1982-83 was Rs.2194629 and the expenditure amounted to Rs.2051917.[344] In 1992-93 the income was Rs.68,67,149 and in 1994-95, it was Rs.66,81,258.[345]

Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation

In general, Tirunelveli town is a commercial place. Palayamkottai town serves both as an administrative head-quarters and an educational centre since most of the Government offices and eductional institutions are located in this town. Melapalayam is a major residential area. Beedi manufacturing and trading is a flourishing economic activity in this town. It has to depend on these two towns for the day to day functional activities. As such these three towns are on the right bank of the river Tambaraparani though geographically separated by the river. Therefore the Government recently felt that it was necessary to merge these three municipal towns together to form one "Corporation" for establishing a better co-ordinated civic administration and to foster better developments of civic amenities and services to the people. The basic amenities have to be increased for all to cope with growing urbanisation.

Tirunelveli is the sixth major urban centre in the state of Tamilnadu. It is well connected by road and rail and is located in the centre of the southern districts. Taking into account its population, size, administrative status, educational facilities, medical, recreational, and marketing facilities,

Tirunelveli is well positioned to cater to the economic and social development of the other districts around it. Keeping this in view, Civic Corporation was constituted here in Tirunelveli. The Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation Act, 1994 (Act 28 of 1994) came into force from 1 June 1994. Accordingly, the Tirunelveli Municipality including Palayamkottai municipality, Melapalayam municipality, Thatchanallur town panchayat, Alaganeri panchayat, Vellakoil panchayat, Senthimangalam panchayat, Tiruvannannathapuram panchayat, Palayamkottai panchayat, Karaiyeruppu panchayat, Thimmarajapuram panchayat, V.H.Chathiram panchayat, part of Reddiarpatti panchayat (including the revenue villages 36 Venkaluneerasamuthiram and 37 Kokkathikulam village), part of Nochikulam panchayat (24 Rajagopalapuram village), Melanatham panchayat, Karuppantharai panchayat, Kandiyaperi panchayat, part of Thirupanikarisalkulam panchayat (including 78 Karuvelankulam village 771 Vagaikulam village) and a part of Narasinganallur panchayat (including Narasinganallur (part) SF. Nos.84 to 111, 113 to 115, 434 to 481) is constituted as Tirunelveli City Municipal Corporation with effect from 1 June 1994.[346] The Municipal Commissioner of Tirunelveli municipality assumed the office of the special officer of the Tirunelveli city Municipal Corporation with immediate effect. The Commissioners of Palayamkottai and Melapalayam municipalities and the Executive Officer of the Thatchanallur Town panchayat [347] were appointed as the zonal officer in-charge of administration in respect of the erstwhile municipal areas and town panchayat area respectively.

The zonal officers of the erstwhile municipalities of Palayamkottai and Melapalayam and the Executive Officer of Thatchanallur Town panchayat were thereby authorised with the powers of drawal and disbursement of salaries, wages, maintenance charges, contractors payments and other such payments until further orders. Rules relating to payments and receipts were not empowered to conduct any meetings of the council or any Committees. Only special officer of the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation was authorised to conduct such meetings. In the case of Village panchayats, the concerned panchayat union Commissioners were requested to hand over the charges of the respective village panchayats to the special officer of the Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation.

The Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation is divided into four zones, namely, Tirunelveli zone, Palayamkottai zone, Melapalayam zone and Thatchanallur zone. The total population of this Corporation is 3,68,550 as per 1991 census. The 1994 mid year population is 4,17,292. The total extent of the Corporation is 108.65 sq.km. This Corporation is divided into 72 wards. 24 seats are reserved for ladies and 9 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. Out of 9 seats, 3 are allotted to S.T Women. It maintains a total length of 264.058 km. roads. There are

11,552 street lights under the upkeep of this corporation. 20 water supply reservoirs, supply water through 187.70 km. length of distribution mains a quantity of 252 lakh litres of water to its citizens. In addition, the corporation has 743 public fountains, 1394 hand pumps and 86 deep bore wells. Six water supply lorries take care of the street supply. The corporation has provided 22,195 house service connections. It is interesting to note that though there are 78 septic tank latrines, still dry earth latrines, numbering 138, are in use in the Corporation, 12 'pay and use' latrines are maintained in the Corporation area. Twelve vehicles could be pressed into service for removing rubbish, etc.,

There are five maternity hospitals, 16 maternity centres, three allopathy hospitals, two Siddha hospitals, and six part time dispensaries to take care of the health of the people in this area. This Corporation maintains 156 km. length of drainage. There are 54 radio rooms, nine libraries, seven parks, two travellers' bungalows and four kalyana mandapams at its maintenance.

During the past three years 1993-1995, a sum of Rs.183.50 lakh was sanctioned to Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Melapalayam under Metropolitan Urban Development Programme (MUDP) Scheme for Development and remunerative works. A sum of Rs.20.80 lakh was sanctioned to the Tirunelveli zone under Integrated Uuban Development Programme scheme from which the town bus stand and shops have been constructed. Laying B.T. roads at South Mount Road, improvements to bus stand and maintenance of eight latrines were undertaken in 1993. Rs.7.35 lakhs were spent for Melapalayam zone and Palayamkottai zone too on improvement work like laying roads, construction of bus stands and construction of public convenience, etc.,

Under NRY shelter upgradation scheme (Training for self-employment) three months' training in simple wiring, cellular concrete block making, plumbing, painting and welding were given for the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94. Rupees 300/- per month was paid to each beneficiary as a subsidy and Rs.150/- per month per trainee was paid for the equipment charges during the training period. Rs.2,40,088/- was spent on this programme during 1993-94.

The income of this Corporation during the year 1994-95 was Rs.993.40 lakhs. In view of the Corporation authorities, the financial position of this Corporation is not sound in and the government financial assistance is very essential to meet out some essential needs.[348]

Functions of Town and Country Planning Department in the Tirunelveli Region

As an offshoot of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, the Town and Country Planning Department was created in the State, headed

by a Director, with headquarters at Madras. Eight Regional officers throughout Tamil Nadu headed by Deputy Directors have been formed. One of these Regional Offices is located at Tirunelveli having jurisdiction over Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari districts.

The main functions of this department are of various kinds which are detailed below:

It prepares Master Plan and detailed development plans for urban centres to regulate the land developments for various urban uses; It assists the local authorities in implementing the land use and development plan; It also assists the local authorities to identify and formulate urban development projects and to conduct meeting periodically under the Chairmanship of District Collector to monitor the progress of the urban development projects funded by World Bank, Integrated Urban Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT). It identifies the cyclone prone areas and also proposes comprehensive protection measures. It also assists the Tamil Nadu Housing Board Tamil Nadu slum clearance Board and private developers and other agencies in preparing residential and industrial lay outs. Apart from these, it identifies and approves areas exclusively for industrial developments.

Activities of the department in Tirunelveli District

Master Plan for urban areas. Master plans showing the major land use classifications named, such as residential, industrial, commercial, public and semi-public, educational transportation and agricultural uses are prepared by this department for the urban centres, namely, Tirunelveli local planning areas (including Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Melapalayam municipalities and other surroundings), Sankarankovil, Tenkasi, Shenkottai, Puliangudi, Courtallam and Kadayanallur.

Detailed Development Plans

Detailed development plan areas for casting the future developments at micro level have been prepared for the following local authorities, viz., Tirunelveli (49), Sankarankovil (10), Tenkasi (2), Sengottai (2), Puliangudi (5), Courtallam (1) and Kadayanallur (1).

(Figures given in paranthesis referred to the number of Plans).

Based on the master plan, short term measures for solving the immediate urban development problems, and structure plans have been prepared for Tirunelveli.

Tamil Nadu Urban Development Projects (TNUDP)

Under World Bank Assistance, the project management group, Madras have selected Tirunelveli, Sankarankovil, Melapalayam, Palayamkottai, Sengottai, and Tenkasi Urban Centres for implementing development projects both remunerative and non-remunerative projects, such as shelter

component (site and service schemes) tramp components, slum improvement schemes, bus stands, shopping complexes, street lights, solid waste management system, service schemes, etc.,

Schemes under TNUDP

I. MUDP Component

Tirunelveli Municipality		*Amount in lakh*
1.	Construction of shopping complex in Municipal Central Bus stand	10.00
2.	Constructions of shops (First floor) in S.N.High Road.	10.00
3.	Road Improvement	20.00
4.	Solid Waste Management	17.00
II.	**Palayamkottai Municipality**	
1.	Construction shops in slaughter house	8.00
2.	Shops at M.M.Hospitals	6.00
3.	Construction of Market at Maharaja Nagar	17.00
4.	Construction of Marriage hall near Sarojini Park	19.00
5.	Construction of additional hall in Kalyana-mandapam at Maharajanagar	5.00
6.	Storm water drainage	10.00
7.	Solid water management	13.00
III.	**Melapalayam Municipality**	
1.	Construction of 16 shops in front of municipal office.	10.00
2.	Construction of Kalyanamandapam in Municipal area.	12.00
3.	Construction of storm water drains	3.00
4.	Improvement of roads	8.00
5.	Construction of daily market in cattle shandy	10.00
6.	Solid waste management	5.00
IV.	**Sankarankoil Municipality**	
1.	Storm water drains	6.38

2.	Improvement to road works	9.14
3.	Solid waste management	3.50
V.	**Kadayanallur Municipality**	
1.	Solid waste management	6.00
2.	Storm water drains	7.90
3.	Improvement to road works	13.62
B.	**Shelter Component**	
1.	Site and Service Scheme at Kulavanigarpuram	497.35
2.	Site and Service Scheme at Naranammallapuram	642.22
C.	**Tramp Componant**	
1.	Forming bye-pass road Tirunelveli, branching from 14614 km. and joining at 155/8 of Madurai Kanniyakumari Road (N.H.7)	550.00
D.	**Slum Improvement**	
1.	Manakavalampillai Nagar	22.89

E. Integrated Urban Development Programme (IUDP) and Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT)

With a view to assisting the local bodies to implement development projects such as, bus stand, shopping complex, link road, etc., and to generate income to the local bodies, the Director of Town and Country Planning sanctioned loan assistance to local bodies in this district under IUDP and IDSMT programme.

The beneficiary towns under these programmes are Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Melapalayam, Sankarankoil, Sengottai, Kadayanallur, Tenkasi, Puliangudi, Courtallam, Thatchanallur, Vasudevanallur, Kallidaikurichi, Cheranmadevi, Sivagiri, Vakkuvalliyoor and Alangulam.

IUDP Schemes

Tirunelveli Municipality

1.	Construction of shops in exhibition ground	7.65
2.	Construction of bunk stalls in S.N.High Road	4.00
3.	Improvement of bus stand	18.25
II.	**Palayamkottai Municipality**	
1.	Construction of *pay and use* toilet in Manakavalampillai hospital street	0.50

2.	Construction of shop and lodging in municipal travellers' bungalow site and construction of local market in Trivandrum road facing bus stand.	14.89
3.	Construction of daily market in Maharaja nagar	10.03
III.	**Melapalayam Municipality**	
1.	Construction of shops and godown	15.50
IV.	**Sankarankoil Municipality**	
1.	Construction of bus stand Phase-I	25.00
2.	-do- Phase-II	10.00
3.	-do- Drainage	1.00
V.	**Sencottai Municipality**	
1.	Construction of the bus stand	20.00
2.	-do- retaining wall and public urinals	1.10
VI.	**Kadayanallur Municipality**	
1.	Construction of 'pay and use' toilet	0.40
2.	Construction of stall in Municipal weekly market	7.80
VII.	**Tenkasi Municipality**	
	Construction of bus stand	30.00
VIII.	**Puliangudi Municipality**	
1.	Construction of shops at daily market	0.68
2.	Construction of bus stand at Puliangudi and Chinthamani	30.00
IX.	**Courtallam Township**	
1.	Construction of *pay and use* toilet	0.40
2.	Construction of Cottage near main falls	4.05
3.	-do- twin cottage near bus stand	1.93
4.	-do- rest house in exhibition ground	9.50
5.	-do- second floor at Sengottai road	7.66
6.	-do- rest house	30.00
X.	**Thatchanallur Town Panchayat**	
	Construction of shops, lodges daily market and 'pay and use' toilet	10.00
XI.	**Vasudevapuram Town Panchayat**	
1.	Construction of bus stand	12.20
2.	-do- approach road to bus stand	2.83

XII.	**Kallidaikurichi Town panchayat**	
1.	Construction of bus stand	10.25
XIII.	**Cheranmadevi Town Panchayat**	
1.	Construction of 'pay and use' toilet	6.62
XIV.	**Sivagiri Town Panchayat**	
1.	Construction of bus stand	10.00
XV.	**Alankulam Town panchayat:**	
	Construction of bus stand	15.00
IDSMT Projects		
Tenkasi Municipality		
1.	Construction of bus stand	120.00
2.	Improvement of weekly market	35.00
3.	Formation of link road	10.00
4.	Strengthening of existing road	7.00

Civil Designs

This office is preparing civic design for projects like bus stand, shopping complex etc., for availing loan assistance under TNUDP/IUDP/IDSMI programmes.

Site selection for cyclone shelter

Suitable sites in coastal villages have been selected in the cyclone affected areas in Tirunelveli district, and proposals have been submitted to Government for construction of cyclone shelters in the identified sites.

Traffic management and operational plan

The Pallavan Transport Consultancy, Madras, in consultation with the Deputy Director, Tirunelveli and Director of Town and Country Planning, Madras has prepared draft report on traffic operational and management plan for Tirunelveli local planning area for improvement of traffic planning in and around the town.

In conclusion, the master plans are mainly prepared to identify land for future uses and proposals are also suggested to achieve orderly growth. Wet agricultural lands are as far as possible preserved. Detailed development plans are also prepared for the small area based on master plan. In these plans net work of roads are also suggested, so as to have an overall link in different pockets of the city. Here too open spaces are suggested and low density are insisted for health environment so that, standard of living is improved. Structure Plans, IUDP, IDSMT, TNUDP, etc., projects are identified within the overall frame work of the development plans of the town.[349]

APPENDIX - 1

TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT - GENERAL INFORMATION PANCHAYAT UNIONWISE

Sl. No.	Name of Panchayat Union	No. of Village Panchayat	No. of Town Panchayat	Present grade	Population	No.of habitants	Area Sq.kms.	Number of wards	No. of seats reserved (categorywise)
1.	Palayamkottai	40	2	II	1,24,195	133	130.76	177	--
2.	Manur	42	--	II	97,008	208	448.00	177	
3.	Sankarankoil	28	--	IV	73,146	108	295.01	130	SC/ST/ 53
4.	Kuruvikulam	43	1	III	96,570	225	449.34	197	SC/ST/ 70
5.	Melaneelithanallur	25	1	IV	70,581	96	316.00	118	SC/ST/ 29
6.	Cheranmahadevi	12	6	II	1,01,586	161	198.08	37	SC/ST/ 34
7.	Ambasamudram	12	2	III	1,29,627	44	146.79	43	--
8.	Kadayam	23	1	--	80,036	152	197.07	77	SC/ST/ 18
9.	Pappakudi	15	--	II	60,354	85	526.37	77	SC/ST/ 18
10.	Nanguneri	27	2	III	15,504	257	4256.11	106	SC/ST/ 29 Women 35
11.	Kalakadu	17	3	III	13,293	189	207.00	94	SC/ST/ 83 Women 20
12.	Valliyoor	18	2	--	10728	188	422.15	--	--
13.	Radhapuram	27	1	--	11219	211	440.76	--	--
14.	Tenkasi	14	5	--	18364	99	15.35	--	--
15.	Kadayanallur	16	--	III	14327	61	116.80	70	SC/ST/ 8 Women 50
16.	Alankulam	28	1	III	12194	134	120.05	140	SC/ST/Women 28
17.	Kilapavoor	20	2	IV	11118	160	217.75	124	SC 8
18.	Sengottai	6	4	--	15711	73	48.64	--	--
19.	Vasudevanallur	22	3	--	25085	74	577.22	--	--

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of Panchayat Union	Drinking Water Supply							Total length of Roads(in Kms.)	
		Over head tanks	Hand pumps	Power pumps	Ground level tanks	Automatic pressure tanks.	Bore wells	Open wells	Panchayat union roads	Village Panchayat roads
1.	Palayamkottai	36	225	--	7	3	--	--	27.40	27.40
2.	Manur	45	110	53	5	--	303	182	57.80	17.80
3.	Sankarankoil	34	231	--	15	--	--	--	78.20	32.90
4.	Kuruvikulam	30	295	14	11	--	--	342	116.40	78.80
5.	Melaneelithanallur	29	155	--	7	--	272	259	127.90	--
6.	Cheranmahadevi	18	58	38	--	--	86	36	49.60	23.80
7.	Ambasamudram	22	49	29	14	--	89	29	45.00	4.80
8.	Kadayam	23	156	--	9	3	--	--	--	27.70
9.	Pappakudi	35	187	--	19	--	--	33	48.60	11.00
10.	Nanguneri	54	372	54	2	--	444	--	135.80	10.60
11.	Kalakadu	23	96	32	2	--	217	--	101.86	50.34
12.	Valliyoor	37	236	--	11	--	--	--	101.86	103.00
13.	Radhapuram	59	268	--	2	--	--	--	189.00	5.00
14.	Tenkasi	13	51	--	8	--	--	--	--	26.30
15.	Kadayanallur	41	106	--	17	1	106	148	114.40	10.00
16.	Alangulam	26	39	--	13	--	242	298	99.60	108.00
17.	Kilapavoor	34	265	74	22	1	248	8403	--	12.00
18.	Sengottai	21	91	--	18	--	--	--	50.90	10.80
19.	Vasudevanallur	13	182	--	8	--	--	--	76.63	9.00

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of Panchayat Union	Bus Terminus	Villages with town bus facilities	T.V sets installed	Radios supplied	Noon meal centres	Biogas Plants	Chulahs
1.	Palayamkottai	--	77	--	125	52	145	100
2.	Manur	--	47	29	154	51	78	242
3.	Sankarankoil	--	12	24	94	46	216	1042
4.	Kuruvikulam	1	35	18	14	57	20	230
5.	Melaneelithanallur	--	36	20	18	69	60	480
6.	Cheranmahadevi	1	34	--	56	34	79	115
7.	Ambasamudram	1	All the villages	18	66	56	100	1394
8.	Kadayam	--	118	--	130	40	148	150
9.	Pappakudi	--	45	15	114	31	165	1913
10.	Nanguneri	1	29	--	136	214	183	1314
11.	Kalakadu	1	35	8	71	119	21	205
12.	Valliyoor	2	20	--	83	62	20	405
13.	Radhapuram	1	26	--	162	48	55	212
14.	Tenkasi	--	19	11	62	32	49	568
15.	Kadayanallur	--	43	12	69	31	103	360
16.	Alangulam	1	28	17	83	43	128	160
17.	Kilapavoor	1	50% of hamlets	28	50	103	245	1849
18.	Shencottai	--	10	6	61	35	83	364
19.	Vasudevanallur	1	22	7	51	60	76	2036

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of Panchayat Union	Education								Public Health				
		Primary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Higher Secondary Schools	Social Education Centres	Mahalir Mandrams	Libraries	Youth Club	Rural Dispen-saries	Primary Health Centres	Maternity Centres	Other Hospitals	Veterinary dispen-saries
1.	Palayamkottai	97	20	3	2	40	--	6	--	4	2	11	--	2
2.	Manur	81	13	2	2	42	--	4	--	2	1	10	--	1
3.	Sankarankoil	72	11	3	3	28	--	3	--	1	1	8	--	1
4.	Kuruvikulam	94	1	6	2	43	--	3	--	3	4	8	--	2
5.	Melaneelithanallur	53	20	5	1	25	--	1	--	--	2	18	3	2
6.	Cheranmahadevi	61	13	4	4	12	--	5	20	--	4	1	--	4
7.	Ambasamudram	87	18	2	5	30	30	4	--	1	1	13	--	1
8.	Kadayam	78	13	1	3	--	--	3	--	--	2	15	--	2
9.	Pappakudi	43	9	--	4	36	--	3	--	--	1	5	--	3
10.	Nanguneri	131	25	8	3	--	--	3	30	2	4	26	1	2
11.	Kalakadu	60	20	2	6	20	30	3	--	2	1	7	--	1
12.	Valliyoor	81	32	9	3	20	--	7	--	--	1	17	--	2
13.	Radhapuram	101	15		1	11	--	3	--	--	1	9	--	1
14.	Tenkasi	40	11	2	1	25	--	6	--	3	1	5	--	1
15.	Kadayanallur	36	10	2	1	17	--	4	--	1	1	5	--	1
16.	Alangulam	68	14	5	--	30	--	2	--	1	1	8	--	1
17.	Kilapavoor	67	28	5	3	20	--	2	4	2	1	27	--	2
18.	Shencottai	32	4	6	1	10	--	--	--	1	1	5	--	2
19.	Vasudevanallur	77	15	5	3	22	--	5	--	1	1	9	--	2

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)
Income of the Panchayat Unions

Sl.No	Name of the Panchayat Union	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
1.	Palayamkottai	--	--	--	--	--	--
2.	Manur	--	3,29,25,801	12,52,886	8,58,206	8,66,847	7,59,204
3.	Sankarankoil	--	--	--	--	--	-
4.	Kuruvikulam	7,43,524	7,85,658	8,01,164	9,58,212	10,21,825	9,26,056
5.	Melaneelithanallur	--	--	--	--	--	--
6.	Cheranmahadevi	1,23,000	13,95,040	9,32,296	9,61,773	20,21,251	17,08,488
7.	Ambasamudram	--	17,35,140	16,83,976	6,80,463	10,58,121	20,68,015
8.	Kadayam	--	--	--	--	--	--
9.	Pappakudi	--	--	--	--	--	14,16,200
10.	Nanguneri	12,44,965	14,20,195	4,17,342	8,72,452	4,36,922	7,94,146
11.	Kalakadu	--	13,94,963	16,79,238	3,90,476	6,85,367	13,09,809
12.	Valliyoor	--	--	--	--	--	--
13.	Radhapuram	--	--	--	--	--	--
14.	Tenkasi	--	--	--	--	--	--
15.	Kadayanallur	--	28,13,779	21,75,391	10,18,813	14,56,291	15,36,239
16.	Alangulam	--	9,11,129	7,25,732	3,62,332	6,68,160	10,32,383
17.	Kilapavoor	--	8,73,321	10,53,661	7,62,859	3,89,027	11,60,071
18.	Shencottai	--	--	--	--	--	--
19.	Vasudevanallur	--	--	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)

Sl. No.	*Name of the Panchayat Union*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*	*1988-89*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
1.	Palayamkottai	--	--	--	--	--
2.	Manur	11,93,424	20,24,367	12,43,616	15,92,903	--
3.	Sankarankoil	--	--	--	--	--
4.	Kuruvikulam	14,71,502	14,09,614	5,48,332	6,26,365	--
5.	Melaneelithanallur	--	--	--	--	--
6.	Cheranmahadevi	22,98,769	24,28,015	16,11,480	20,26,442	--
7.	Ambasamudram	19,78,715	22,21,298	18,76,739	13,97,504	--
8.	Kadayam	--	--	--	--	--
9.	Pappakudi	16,63,380	11,25,400	16,22,710	22,74,970	--
10.	Nanguneri	8,59,389	14,05,232	10,66,566	5,43,526	--
11.	Kalakadu	15,50,471	21,50,951	20,32,978	6,51,726	--
12.	Valliyoor	--	--	--	--	--
13.	Radhapuram	--	--	--	--	--
14.	Tenkasi	--	--	--	--	--
15.	Kadayanallur	13,84,222	18,26,618	11,33,640	19,50,633	16,78,933
16.	Alangulam	--	--	8,16,180	13,21,637	10,07,776
17.	Kilapavoor	--	--	8,36,066	15,19,029	11,51,373
18.	Shencottai	--	--	--	--	--
19.	Vasudevanallur	--	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)

Rural Development Schemes introduced in 19 Panchayat Unions from the year 1989 to 1996.

Name of the District : Tirunelveli

Sl. No.	Name of the Panchayat union	Name of the Scheme	Object of the Scheme	Year of implementation of the Scheme	Funding pattern	Department through which the scheme was executed	Description of the work	Year	Cost incurred (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons Benifitted	Date of completion
1.	All Blocks (19 Blocks)	IRDP	Upliftment of standard of living of the people from below poverty line. (poverty alleviation programme)	1980-81	Central and State 50 : 50	DRD Director of rural Development.	Providing loan faci lities under IRDP in 65 different trades with 50% subsidy to SC/ST and 33.3% to OC Communities	1985-86	248.180	13,948	31.3.1986
								1986-87	184.920	11,533	31.3.1987
								1987-88	212.847	12,246	31.3.1988
								1988-89	236.119	13,180	31.3.1989
								1989-90	248.335	10,286	31.3.1990
								1990-91	248.335	8,913	31.3.1991
								1991-92	233.651	8,241	31.3.1992
								1992-93	220.250	8,135	31.3.1993
								1993-94	485.090	11,739	31.3.1994
								1994-95	457.440	11,207	31.3.1995
								1995-96	378.880	9,188	31.3.1996
2.	All Blocks (19 Blocks)	TRYSEM	Providing training with Stipend to the rural unemployed youths, and reducing the unemployment problem among rural youths.	1980-81	Central and State 50 : 50	DRD Director of rural Development.	Providing training to the rural unemployed youths and offered loans to the TRYSEM trained beneficiaries with subsidy under self employment programme.	1989-90	18.56	665	31.3.1990
								1990-91	18.56	665	31.3.1991
								1991-92	33.05	1090	31.3.1992
								1992-93	26.89	983	31.3.1993
								1993-94	37.24	301	31.3.1994
								1994-95	29.80	1106	31.3.1995
								1995-96	20.82	702	31.3.1996

APPENDIX - 1 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of the Sector	1990 - 91				1991-92			
		Physical		Financial		Physical		Financial	
		Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
I.J.V.V.T.									
	1. Group House	1700	1700	241.400	227.200	2150	2150	374.280	324.280
	2. Jeevandhara Wells	60	10	13.200	2.498	200	79	50.210	45.210
	3. Ex-Zamin-Tanks	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	4. Minor Irrigation Tanks	149	--	46.784	46.308	131	111	65.210	60.210
	5. Percolation Ponds	30	--	24.897	16.603	13	13	12.000	12.000
	6. Temple Tanks	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	7. School Buildings	15	14	7.675	7.300	35	18	48.300	22.080
	8. Noon Meal Centre	--	--	--	--	44	16	30.800	11.200
	9. Panchayat Office Buildings	40	40	15.852	15.240	52	52	36.400	36.400
	10. Veterinary	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	11. P.D.Outlets	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	12. Road Works								
	I. Metal	39(3739)	37	22.200	11.240	42km	42km	71.720	71.720
	II. B.T.Roads	65(7015)	17	46.561	35.000	87km	75km	185.380	170.240
	13. Small Bridges	--	--	--	--	10	10	4.900	4.900
	14. 80% of Village P.T.Works	--	--	--	--	816	816	92.474	92.474

APPENDIX - 1 (Contd.)

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Community Hall	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16.	Pt. Maintenance	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
17.	Social Forestry	600 (Hec.)	6018 (Hec.)	12.042	8.028	300 (Hec.)	436 (Hec.)	20.410	20.410
18.	Link Road	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
19.	Tharshing Floor	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20.	Kitchen Shed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
21.	Bus Shelter	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22.	T.V.Room	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
23.	Burial Ground Shed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
24.	Burial Ground Road	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25.	School Building Repair	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
26.	Noon Meal Centre Repair	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
27.	Drainage	222	222	12.725	8.459	--	--	--	--
28.	Protective Wall	11	11	1.996	0.798	--	--	--	--
29.	Mahila Mandals	3	3	0.268	0.179	--	--	--	--
30.	Sanitary Latrines	3	3	0.225	0.185	--	--	--	--
31.	Miscellaneous Works	539	539	45.671	30.446	--	--	--	--
	Total	2.876	2.596 107km 600 Hec.	49´.496 54km 601,800 Hec.	409.484	3.451 129km 300Hec.	3.265 117km 435Hec.	992.084	871.124

APPENDIX - 1 (contd.)

Sl.No.	1992 - 93				1993-94				1994-95			
	Physical		Financial		Physical		Financial		Physical		Financial	
	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived
1.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.
I. J.V.V.T.												
1.	360	158	74.750	54.580	1101	1029	197.125	196.242	1622	1322	354.483	317.131
2.	121	121	5.000	5.000	171	97	74.180	62.343	450	249	169.337	166.177
3.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16	--	20.000	7.770
4.	20	20	5.000	5.000	140	37	109.446	100.240	153	103	60.011	25.667
5.	20	20	2,000	20,000	58	35	87.240	85.316	63	33	73.424	60.864
6.	--	--	--	--	9	9	13.000	13.000	10	9	15.000	13.645
7.	32	32	44.140	44.140	66	62	93.107	93.107	59	59	87.797	87.797
8.	49	49	33.240	33.240	45	42	35.298	34.090	12	12	8.948	8.948
9.	--	--	--	--	87	62	113.390	106.960	50	50	31.430	31.430
10.	--	--	--	--	19	5	13.900	13.900	14	14	3.660	3.660
11.	--	--	--	--	19	4	18.950	16.750	15	15	2.145	2.145
12.	88km	53	165.020	100.020	91km	66km	192.321	167.891	111km	106	111.870	105.880
	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.036	4.036	--	---	--	--
13.	--	--	--	--	3	3	3.000	3.000	3	3	1.300	1.300
14.	212	212	23.500	23.500	765	765	106.350	106.350	674	665	57.450	55.350
15.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	95	37	175.000	24.000
16.	--	--	--	--	183	183	14.400	14.400	254	254	23.260	23.260
17.	600 (He.)	600 (He.)	20.070	20.070	600 (He.)	600 (He.)	28.180	28.180	820 (He.)	820 (He.)	29.110	29.110
18.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	77	77	28.000	28.000
19.	--	--	--	--	59	59	19.470	19.470	31	31	1.720	1.720
20.	--	--	--	--	62	62	9.300	9.300	30	30	1.090	1.090
21.	--	--	--	--	21	21	4.200	4.200	9	9	0.598	0.598
22.	--	--	--	--	23	23	4.600	4.600	10	10	0.270	0.270

APPENDIX - 1 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	1992 - 93				1993-94				1994-95			
	Physical		Financial		Physical		Financial		Physical		Financial	
	Target	Achived	Target	Achived.	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived	Target	Achived
1.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.
23.	--	--	--	--	45	45	5.400	5.400	16	16	0.400	0.400
24.	--	--	--	--	29	29	5.400	5.400	182	173	74.200	73.965
25.	--	--	--	--	46	46	6.205	6.205	--	--	--	--
26.	--	--	--	--	47	47	4.555	4.555	--	--	--	--
27.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
28.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
29.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
30.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
31.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	813 88 km 600 Hec.	611 53 km 600 Hec.	390.720	305.550	2995 91 km 600 Hec	2698 66 km 600 Hec.	1163.053	1104.935	3871 111 km 820 Hec.	4097	1330.495	1070.169

APPENDIX - 2

General Information about the Town Panchayats and Townships

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat / Township	Date of Constitution of Village/Town Panchayats	Area	Present Grade	Total Number of wards	Reservations
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Ambasamudram	1944	34.731 Sq.Kl.	--	14	1 for SC.
2.	Kallidaikurichi	1986 G.O.No.122 dated 27.01.1986. RD amd LA.	4.83 Sq.kl.	Selection Grade	14	1 for SC.
3.	Cheranmahadevi	1986 G.O.Ms.No.122 dated 27.1.1986 RD and LA.	7 Sq.metres	--do--	12	--
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	12.6.1945	4 Sq.metres	--do--	14	--
5.	Panagudi	1.4.1948	49 Sq.metres	--do--	15	--
6.	Mukkudal	20.7.1949	6 Sq.metres	--do--	12	2 for SC / STs
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	26.4.94	--	--do--	14	1 for Woman
8.	Veeravanallur	1944	9.13 Sq.kl.	--do--	15	--
9.	Vikramasingapuram	23.10.1934	54.4 Sq.Kl.	--do--	15	--
10.	Kalakadu	15.02.1987	11 Sq.metres	--do--	12	3 for SC/ST/ Women
11.	Alvarkurichi	13.1.1961	5.49 Sq.metres	--do--	14	1 for woman

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat / Township	Date of Constitution of Village/Town Panchayats	Area	Present Grade	Total Number of wards	Reservations
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Eruvadi	24.4.1992	5 Sq.miles	Ist Grade	14	--
13.	Gopalasamudram	1.5.1961	10.5 Sq.miles	-do-	13	--
14.	Nanguneri	--	17.25 km.	-do-	14	--
15.	Pattamadai	1898	5 Sq.metres	-do-	14	--
16.	Melaseval	1895	14.21 km.	-do-	13	2 for SC/Women
17.	Thirukurungudi	1906	6.4 Sq.metres	-do-	13	--
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	21.7.1953	15.3 kms,	-do-	13	--
19.	Manimuthar Township	14.4.1963	14528 acres	-do-	17 (Nominated body)	--
20.	Sankara Nagar Township	14.4.1963	8.49 Sq.km.	-do-	3	--
21.	Naranammalpuram	1.10.61	11.123 Sq.kms.	-do-	14	--
22.	Thiruvengadam	1.10.1969	11.5 Sq.kms.	Ist grade	12	--
23.	Alangulam	13.4.1961	8 Sq.kms.	Selection Grade	12	--
24.	Keelapavoor	1.5.1936	14.18 Sq.kms.	-do-	14	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat / Township	Date of Constitution of Village/Town Panchayats	Area	Present Grade	Total Number of wards	Reservations
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Sivagiri	27.1.1896	7.52 kms.	Selection Grade	15	--
26.	Surandai	--	--	-do-	15	--
27.	Achanpudur	1957	13.07 Sq.kms.	Ist Grade	13	2
28.	Ayikudy	31.7.1951	8.5 Sq.kms.	-do-	13	1 for Woman
29.	Illanji	7.5.1964	5 Sq.miles	-do-	13	--
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	1.4.1962	11 Sq.kms.	-do-	14	--
31.	Pudur	7.2.1970	33.21 Sq.kms.	-do-	13	1 for Woman
32.	Rayagiri	28.10.1961	8.5 Sq.kms.	-do-	13	1 for Woman 1 for SC
33.	Vedakaraikilpidagai	1.1.1957	8.9 Sq.kms.	-do-	14	--
34.	Vasudevanallur	5.4.1895	6.5 Sq.kms.	-do-	15	1 for Woman
35.	Sundarapandiapuram	13.4.1964	7 Sq.metres	-do-	13	--
36.	Panpoli	2.9.1959	2.58 Sq.miles	2nd Grade	13	--
37.	Melagaram	1.10.1975	4.0 Sq.metres	Ist Grade	14	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of Town Panchayat / Township	Number of Street lights	Total length of roads in km.	Total number of of water tap connections.
1.	Ambasamudram	702	35.935	3289
2.	Kallidaikurichi	519	36.280	3061
3.	Cheranmahadevi	427	35.508	1762
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	427	20.990	824
5.	Panagudi	456	29.279	1072
6.	Mukkudal	261	15.560	1532
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	527	26.700	2460
8.	Veeravanallur	514	32.737	2130
9.	Vickramasingapuram	797	45.90	5181
10.	Kalakadu	610	51.016	--
11.	Alvarkurichi	182	39.796	612
12.	Eravadi	332	34.613	1032
13.	Gopalasamudram	216	11.222	580
14.	Nanguneri	195	12.9	411
15.	Pattmadai	365	23.844	1411
16.	Melaseval	212	14.21	295
17.	Thirukurungudi	261	19.503	93
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	262	18.0	198
19.	Manimuthar	294	37.03	207
20.	Sankarnagar Township	185	5.440	--
21.	Naranammalpuram	64	20.130	--
22.	Thiruvengadam	85	37.80	56
23.	Alangulam	247	13.275	89

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of Town Panchayat / Township	Number of Street lights	Total length of roads in km.	Total number of of water tap connections.
24.	Keelapavoor	296	14.851	1479
25.	Sivagiri	375	17.795	70
26.	Surandai	481	11.175	1834
27.	Achanpudur	120	10.408	381
28.	Ayikudy	232	11.712	528
29.	Ilanji	200	11.671	2291
30.	Sambawarvadakarai	190	22.676	1043
31.	Pudur	225	13.243	92
32.	Rayagiri	192	11.099	6
33.	Vadakaraikilpidagai	167	9.983	143
34.	Vasudevanallur	240	15.40	12
35.	Sundarapandiapuram	110	12.014	233
36.	Panpoli	118	8.11	207
37.	Melagaram	259	14.390	300

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Town Panchayat/Township 2	Market 3	Bus stand 4	Audi-torium 5	Guest House 6	Community Hall 7	Play ground 8	Slaughter house 9	Park 10	Siren 11	T.V 12	Radio 13
1.	Ambasamudram	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	119	12
2.	Kallidaikurichi	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	3
3.	Cheranmahadevi	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	2	5
4.	Thisaiyanvillai	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
5.	Panagudi	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	7
6.	Mukkudal	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	--
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3	--
8.	Veeravanallur	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	9	--	6
9.	Vickramasingapuram	--	--	1	--	--	29	--	--	--	1	--
10.	Kalakadu	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	2	--	--	--
11.	Alvarkurichi	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	1	--	1	3
12.	Eruvadi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
13.	Gopalasamudram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	3
14.	Nanguneri	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
15.	Pattamadai	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	2	--
16.	Melaseval	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	3	--
17.	Thirukurungudi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3	1
19.	Manimuthar(T.S)	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	16	18
20.	Sankarnagar Township	--	--	1	--	1	1	1	--	--	--	2
21.	Naranammalpuram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2
22.	Thiruvengadam	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
23.	Alangulam	weekly 1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6

APPENDIX - 2 (contd.)

Sl. No. 1	Name of the Town Panchayat/Township 2	Market 3	Bus stand 4	Auditorium 5	Guest House 6	Community Hall 7	Play ground 8	Slaughter house 9	Park 10	Siren 11	T.V 12	Radio 13
24.	Keelapavoor	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	1	--	9
25.	Sivagiri	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--
26.	Surandai	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	13
27.	Achanpudur	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
28.	Ayikudy	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	--
29.	Ilanji	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	2
31.	Pudur	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	5
32.	Rayagiri	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3
33.	Vadakaraikilpidagai	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
34.	Vasudevanallur	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
35.	Sundarapandiapuram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	3
36.	Panpoli	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
37.	Melagaram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--

APPENDIX - 2 (contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of the Town Panchayat / Township	No.of licences issued to dangerous and offensive trades	Amount collected as licence fees for dangerous and offensive trades	Number of burial or burning ghats		
				Hindus	Christians	Muslims
1	2	3	4 (In Rupees)	5	6	7
1.	Ambasamudram	737	12993.60	1	1	1
2.	Kallidaikurichi	403	11526.00	1	1	1
3.	Cheranmahadevi	351	5532.00	1	1	1
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	487	6105.00	1	1	1
5.	Panagudi	--	1670.00	1	1	1
6.	Mukkudal	436	10164.00	1	1	1
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	311	--	1	1	1
8.	Veeravanallur	13	--	4	1	2
9.	Vickramasingapuram	715	--	1	1	1
10.	Kalakadu	421	2800.00	1	1	1
11.	Alvarkurichi	--	1225.75	1	1	1
12.	Eruvadi	239	6996.50	1	--	--
13.	Gopalasamudram	--	480.00	12	12	1
14.	Nanguneri	105	775.00	--	--	--
15.	Pattamadai	177	2590.00	1	1	1
16.	Melaseval	101	1670.00	1	1	1
17.	Thirukurungudi	66	2236.00	--	--	--
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	145	2312.75	12	4	1
19.	Manimuthur Township	6	1154.25	4	1	--
20.	Sankarnagar Township	35	2219.00	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of the Town Panchayat / Township	No.of licences issued to dangerous and offensive trades	Amount collected as licence fees for dangerous and offensive trades (In Rupees)	Number of burial or burning ghats		
				Hindus	Christians	Muslims
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Naranammalpuram	--	--	--	--	--
22.	Thiruvengadam	180	--	--	--	-
23.	Alangulam	345	8424.00	1	1	1
24.	Keelapavoor	350	2763.00	4	--	--
25.	Sivagiri	399	--	2	2	1
26.	Surandai	487	--	2	2	2
27.	Achanpudur	121	5462.50	--	--	--
28.	Ayikudy	150	3301.50	3	--	--
29.	Ilanji	149	2320.00	1	1	1
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	223	4430.75	--	--	--
31.	Pudur	120	3760.00	4	--	2
32.	Rayagiri	--	3869.25	1	1	1
33.	Vadakaraikilpidagai	140	--	9	--	3
34.	Vasudevanallur	189	6599.00	1	1	1
35.	Sundarapandiyapuram	198	3671.25	--	--	--
36.	Panpoli	109	1142.00	--	--	--
37.	Melagaram	110	2278.75	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayat / Township	Elementary Schools	High Schools	Higher Secondary Schools	Middle Schools	Library	Reading Room Centres	Noon Meal Centres
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Ambasamudram	--	--	--	--	--	--	19
2.	Kallidaikurichi	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
3.	Cheranmahadevi	10	1	1	--	1	1	13
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	11	2	2	1	--	--	3
5.	Panagudi	--	--	--	--	1	1	--
6.	Mukkudal	7	--	1	--	1	--	10
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	1	2	2	2	1	6	7
8.	Veeravanallur	12	1	2	--	1	1	15
9.	Vickramasingapuram	16	1	3	7	1	--	2
10.	Kalakadu	10	1	2	4	--	--	4
11.	Alvarkurichi	7	1	1	--	1	--	3
12.	Eruvadi	7	--	2	--	1	--	1
13.	Gopalasamudram	4	1	2	--	1	--	7
14.	Nanguneri	6	1	1	1	1	--	1
15.	Pattamadai	5	--	1	1	1	1	5
16.	Melaseval	7	7	--	--	1	1	4
17.	Thirukurungudi	6	1	--	--	1	1	2
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	5	1	1	--	1	1	7
19.	Manimuthar	13	2	--	--	1	16	9
20.	Sankarnagar	--	1	1	1	2	2	3

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No. 1	Name of the Panchayat/ Township 2	Elementary Schools 3	High Schools 4	Higher Secondary Schools 5	Middle Schools 6	Library 7	Reading Room Centres 8	Noon Meal Centres 9
21.	Naranammalpuram	2	1	--	3	1	--	--
22.	Thiruvengadam	2	--	1	--	1	--	1
23.	Alangulam	2	2	--	1	1	--	5
24.	Keelapavoor	6	2	--	4	1	--	6
25.	Sivagiri	9	2	1	--	1	1	13
26.	Surandai	6	--	1	4	--	1	11
27.	Achanpudur	3	--	--	--	1	--	--
28.	Ayikudy	6	--	1	--	--	1	13
29.	Ilanji	6	--	1	--	1	--	12
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	3	--	1	1	--	--	1
31.	Pudur	7	--	--	--	1	--	5
32.	Rayagiri	6	1	1	1	1	--	6
33.	Vadakaraikilpidagai	8	2	--	--	1	--	2
34.	Vasudevanallur	10	1	1	2	1	--	4
35.	Sundarapandiyapuram	3	--	1	--	1	--	1
36.	Panpoli	4	2	1	1	1	--	1
37.	Melagaram	2	--	--	1	1	--	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayat/ Township	No. of beneficiaries 10	Adult Education Centres 11	Dispensaries/ Hospitals 12.	Veterinary Hospitals 13	No.of pay and use public convenience 14
1.	Ambasamudram	737	4	4	--	--
2.	Kallidaikurichi	--	--	1	1	1
3.	Cheranmahadevi	101	--	--	--	1
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	375	1	1	--	--
5.	Panagudi	--	1	1	--	--
6.	Mukkudal	900	--	1	1	--
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	--	--	1	--	1
8.	Veeravanallur	2400	--	--	--	--
9.	Vickramasingapuram	250	--	--	1	--
10.	Kalakadu	--	--	1	1	--
11.	Alvarkurichi	300	5	2	--	--
12.	Eruvadi	--	--	1	--	--
13.	Gopalasamudram	943	--	--	1	--
14.	Nanguneri	--	--	1	--	--
15.	Pattamadai	1021	--	1	1	--
16.	Melaseval	200	--	1	1	--
17.	Thirukurungudi	--	--	1	1	--
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	727	--	1	1	--
19.	Manimuthar	2000	8	5	--	--
20.	Sankarnagar	325	--	2	--	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Sl.No.	Name of the Panchayat / Township	No. of benefi-ciaries 10	Adult Education Centres 11	Dispensaries/ Hospitals 12.	Veterinary Hospitals 13	No.of pay and use public convenience 14
21.	Naranammalpuram	--	--	2	--	--
22.	Thiruvengadam	--	--	1	--	--
23.	Alangulam	1312	--	--	1	--
24.	Keelapavoor	245	--	--	--	--
25.	Sivagiri	1767	1	1	1	--
26.	Surandai	--	--	1	--	--
27.	Achanpudur	--	--	--	--	--
28.	Ayikudy	1490	--	1	1	--
29.	Ilanji	--	--	1	--	--
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	--	--	1	--	--
31.	Pudur	1373	--	1	--	--
32.	Rayagiri	260	--	1	--	--
33.	Vadakaraikilpidagai	95	--	1	1	--
34.	Vasudevanallur	160	--	1	1	1
35.	Sundarapandiyapuram	100	1	2	1	--
36.	Panpoli	--	--	1	--	--
37.	Melagaram	--	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.)

Income of the Town Panchayat / Township 1980-81 to 1993-94 (In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat/Township	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
1.	Ambasamudram	9,86,642	9,18,748	10,56,574	11,86,779	13,99,251	14,14,047	16,03,965
2.	Kallidaikurichi	3,49,467	3,70,297	4,65,450	5,52,738	6,08,625	6,64,784	7,64,357
3.	Cheranmahadevi	8,49,974	35,874	5,24,926	5,41,728	6,02,883	11,23,585	11,63,799
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	1,85,800	1,96,771	2,04,476	2,40,490	2,69,400	5,36,526	5,55,425
5.	Panagudi	2,96,273	2,65,315	6,88,266	3,82,593	4,27,497	4,83,097	5,65,960
6.	Mukkudal	--	92,096	1,90,035	1,61,074	1,59,745	1,67,932	2,05,789
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	--	6,55,296	7,37,248	7,72000	10,41,252	11,23,486	12,68,660
8.	Veeravanallur	2,55,321	2,59,041	2,53,057	2,66,048	2,92,901	3,18,381	4,96,126
9.	Vickramasingapuram	3,71,914	7,23,579	4,07,220	6,28,717	6,13,472	4,28,997	8,72,100
10.	Kalakadu	3,52,531	2,92,862	3,40,455	2,89,454	3,08,070	4,73,748	5,30,441
11.	Alwarkurichi	88,904	91,525	1,30,049	1,10,210	1,19,737	1,19,498	1,27,972
12.	Eruvadi	89,630	1,04,098	1,18,796	1,35,967	1,77,262	1,33,722	2,52,396
13.	Gopalasamudram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
14.	Nanguneri	1,00,566	1,52,122	4,03,921	1,54,237	2,03,306	1,36,123	4,32,070
15.	Pattamadai	1,41,542	1,22,449	1,89,395	1,90,654	2,17,368	2,79,238	2,35,179
16.	Melaseval	88,279	89,664	79,113	1,14,824	1,06,942	1,20,229	1,22,676
17.	Thirukurungudi	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	1,84,230	99,502	1,15,041	1,65,439	11,54,488	20,03,804	16,03.965
19.	Manimuthar Township	18,72,898	25,73,691	24,21,509	40,19,490	25,15,626	28,20,385	7,64,357
20.	Sankarnagar Township	--	--	--	--	--	--	11,63,799

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.) (In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat/Township	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986 87
21.	Naranammalpuram	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,55,425
22.	Thiruvengadam	1,00,160	91,690	1,03,002	1,19,941	1,19,913	4,44,000	5,65,960
23.	Alangulam	1,36,810	1,68,415	1,77,502	2,68,318	3,53,477	4,48,031	2.05,789
24.	Keelapavoor	1,72,245	1,38,465	2,88,664	2,13,020	1,92,632	2,52,703	12,68,660
25.	Sivagiri	--	--	--	--	--	--	4,96,126
26.	Surandai	1,90,448	2,90,727	4,64,960	6,23,263	6,87,587	12,83,822	8,72,100
27.	Achanpudur	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,30,441
28.	Ayikudy	1,91,733	1,79,192	1,89,355	1,63,230	1,74,323	2.13.309	1,27,972
29.	Ilanji	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,52,396
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	1,26,410	1,04,777	1,13,044	1,29,893	1,23,763	1,56,066	4.32.070
31.	Pudur	1,37,700	1,39,778	2,14,259	1,93,000	1,67,317	2,41,240	2,35,179
32.	Rayagiri	14,827	1,33,504	1,49,602	1,41,692	1,74,075	2,04,961	1,22,676
33.	Vadakaraikilpidagai	1,55,099	1.78,862	1,68,470	1,83,402	1,71,586	1,99,231	2,46,411
34.	Vasudevanallur	1,59,493	1,87,274	1,47,753	2,11,342	2,34,744	2,52,295	2,84,856
35.	Sundarapandiapuram	83,589	83,433	96,337	1.08,.924	1,06,813	1,15,297	15,478
36.	Panpoli	73,339	92,411	1,02,927	1,09,463	1,16,528	1,68,330	1,39,958
37.	Melagaram	Nil	--	--	--	--	--	Nil

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.) (In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat/Township	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1.	Ambasamudram	16,49,468	16,79,574	20,56,907	20,53,740	22,43,795	28,01,662	38,62,467
2.	Kallidaikurichi	6,92,083	9,79,475	11,32,573	12,09,251	15,81,501	19,02,145	21,99,179
3.	Cheranmahadevi	8,12,898	9,18,072	10,85,338	12,87,584	14,38,300	13,44,555	--
4.	Tisaiyanvillai	6,48,501	6,40,811	8,69,326	6,66,687	8,07,482	7,81,751	--
5.	Panagudi	7,23,042	5,91,123	7,21,547	7,33,611	8,30,278	9,80,456	--
6.	Mukkudal	3,63,517	5,22,073	6,52,409	3,28,903	5,06,263	5,96,832	--
7.	Vadakku Vallioor	16,29,257	18,71,970	32,08,760	24,91,900	23,89,500	29,42,200	--
8.	Veeravanallur	4,96,126	4,96,876	5,38,970	5,56,565	5,77,991	9,30,602	10,25,566
9.	Vickramasingapuram	8,51,410	3,98,658	10,76,827	12,04,696	17,09,111	20,21,205	29,62,363
10.	Kalakadu	6,08,210	7,34,151	8,22,121	9,04,967	7,49,621	8,89,230	14,23,831
11.	Alwarkurichi	1,96,760	2,23,057	2,47,358	3,38,821	4,05,245	5,35,502	9,51,973
12.	Eruvadi	3,84,152	3,38,804	4,50,474	4,69,477	5,65,994	8,66,083	--
13.	Gopalasamudram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
14.	Nanguneri	1,80,987	1,94,509	2,60,066	2,92,052	3,96,020	3,33,801	--
15.	Pattamadai	2,69,345	4,28,061	6,23,437	6,02,100	9,61,591	8,96,332	9,11,861
16.	Melaseval	1,45,026	1,66,349	2,23,182	2,79,315	31,71,362	--	--
17.	Thirukurungudi	--	--	1,92,250	2,53,537	3,10,895	3,25,342	3,72,743
18.	Moolaikaraipatti	32,24,515	3,32,666	4,63,123	3,18,646	3,95,690	5,17,556	--
19.	Manimuthar Township	43,11,865	27,32,480	75,45,712	65,81,413	54,05,361	79,46,501	--
20.	Sankarnagar Township	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX - 2 (Contd.) (In Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Town Panchayat/Township	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
21.	Naranammalpuram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22.	Thiruvengadam	4,06,974	2,74,180	2,98,901	2,56,522	4,25,593	8,27,656	9,62,786
23.	Alangulam	11,01,664	7,70,539	14,04,163	11,97,490	12,15,018	22,80,761	--
24.	Keelapavoor	3,13,118	2,83,313	4,40,835	3,45,746	5,30,625	14,18,562	9,57,811
25.	Sivagiri	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
26.	Surandai	7,98,000	18,14,765	18,54,220	12,49,705	14,18,934	17,83,772	22,76,358
27.	Achanpudur	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
28.	Ayikudy	3,64,371	3,22,332	4,08,755	3,91,527	4,66,030	7,77,077	9,36,001
29.	Ilanji	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
30.	Sambavarvadakarai	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
31.	Pudur	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
32.	Rayagiri	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
33.	Vadagaraikilpidagai	3,48,125	3,10,435	3,92,931	4,23,670	5,05,753	7,29,277	7,26,829
34.	Vasudevanallur	4,17,652	3,57,724	3,81,598	5,40,853	4,19,914	7,41,320	8,64,843
35.	Sundarapandiyapuram	2,35,189	1,56,813	2,08,138	2,29,482	2,29,849	3,74,423	4,58,630
36.	Panpoli	2,09,319	1,82,987	2,11,664	1,98,850	2,61,221	5,15,174	--
37.	Melagaram	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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94. Administrative Report of Palayamkottai Municipality 1983-84 and *Municipal Directory 1986*, p.122.

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CHAPTER - 14

EDUCATION

Historical Background

The Pandya Kingdom of which Tirunelveli district formed a part figured very much as the home of poets and patrons of learning during the Sangam Age. The legendary Agasthiya, who contributed to the knowledge of grammar, medicine, alchymy and theology in those far off times is said to have lived in a hillock popularly known as Agasthiar malai in the district, on the borders between Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari, is named after the sage.[1]

A considerable number of Tamil compositions of merit are attributed to persons who are believed to have belonged to Tirunelveli. Among them Parimelalzhagar of Tirunelveli is *notale.*[2] Poet Nammalwar is said to have lived in the 12th Century *i.e.* during the reign of Vira Pandya This poet was one of the twelve disciples of Sri Ramanuja Acharya, the founder of the *Vishishtadvaita* school of Hindu theosophy. He composed 1,000 verses in the great Prabandham of Tirunelveli, the sacred hymns which consisted of 4000 verses.

Another giant who belonged to Tirunelveli is Parimelazhagar, the reputed commentator of Thirukkural the exact date of whose existence is lost in the midst of antiquity. He is believed to have lived in the northern part of Tirunelveli immediately after the last of the Sangams.

From the high literary standard of the period as evidenced by the literary works handed down to us, it can safely be inferred that there were rich literary traditions in the district. While the poets symbolised the flourishing State of Tamil literature, the temples in ancient times represented creativity in the spheres of sculpture painting, music. Dancing and jewellery-making were patronised under the auspices of the temples, which were centres of religious and secular learning.

Indigenous System of Education

In the pre-modern period, there existed indigenous schools throughout the district which impart education to young boys. These schools were mainly *Vedapatasalas and Thevarapatasalas* for Hindus and Mahatabs and Madras as for Muhammadans. They were located in every religious centre in this district and supported by the parents of the pupils. Brahmins were chiefly in-charge of *Vedapatasalas* and non-Brahmins for *Thevarapatasalas* while Musalmans were in-charge of Mahataba and Madrasas.[3]

The books in use were written in verse and they were transcribed as palm leaves. The schools for the young which usually taught the three 'Rs'(reading, writing and arithmetics) were located in the precincts of

temples and the choultries. The Muslim schools were usually attached to mosques. In *Thevarapatasalas* , the subjects like Astronomy, Ethics and Logic were taught apart from the *Vedas* and the *Thevarams.* The instruction in *Vedapatasalas* was in Sanskrit while in *Thevarapatasalas*, it was in Tamil. The Muslim Mahatabs were engaged in the primary education while the Madrasas were devoted to higher education. While Koran reading, writing and ordinary arithmatic were taught in Mahatabs;grammar, higher arithmatic, geography, etc., were taught in Madrasas.[4]

The indigenous school whether the Hindu or the Muslim type was a single-teacher one. The difficulty of instruction in a growing school was overcome by the system of pupil teachers (Sattampillais). This monitorial system of which much was made in England in the early part of the nineteenth century received its inspiration in all likelihood from the village schools of South India. Dr. Andrew Bell whose name is associated with the *monitorial system* in England known as the Bell and Lancaster system was an army chaplain in India and from 1789 to 1796 held the position of Superintendent of the Male Orphan Asylum in Madras. He was inspired by the system of pupil teachers prevalent in the Madras indigenous schools and later, he took it to England and reoriented it as the *monitorial system*.[5]

The Beginning of Western Education

The western influence in Education in Tirunelveli District can be traced to the days of Portuguese. The Roman Catholic missionaries led by Portuguese Missionaries had influence among the Paravas in Tirunelveli coastal area at the beginning of the 16th century resulted in the growth of literacy in the district. The most important name associated with the proselytising activity at Tirunelveli towards the close of 1542 was that of St.Francis Xavier. He was a native of Spain. Going about bell in hand, he succeeded in collecting in every village a large concourse of people among whom he spread the Christian faith. In each village he visited, he left a copy of the Christian Instruction for the people to understand the rudiments of Christianity. In the beginning of the 17th Century, the Catholic Mission established a college for imparting training to Jesuit Fathers and Brothers at Thoothukkudi for propagating Christian tenets in the district and thereby for paving the way for the educational development in the region[6].

Of the galaxy of foreign Catholic missionaries who dedicated their lives to education in the district. Father Beschi was the most celebrated for his contribution to the Tamil literature. He was a native of Italy and arrived in Tirunelveli in 1711. He was Rector of the Madha Society at Manapad during his last years (1745-1746).He taught the people both in Tamil and in English[7].

Among the Protestant missionaries who came to the district from England, Rev. James Hough and Rev. C.E. Rhenius were the key figures. Rev.

James Hough from the date of his arrival in 1816 as a Missionary, devoted his whole energy to educational work in the district. He started a number of schools in this region and distributed Bibles and prayer books to the people. Rev. C.E. Rhenius who arrived in the district in 1820 generally followed Hough's policy of educational work and founded a number of educational societies. The most important among the societies established by him was the Dharma Sangam which won the admiration of both Christians and non-Christians by its studies on Geography, Astronomy and French Grammar. In his work, he was assisted by Rev. Schmid, another Protestant Missionary, in the district and his wife took keen interest in the development of women's education in Tirunelveli.

On the eve of mid 19th Century foreign Protestant Missionary women began to arrive in Tirunelveli. Among them, mention should be made of Miss. C.C.Giberne who, after a short period of precepting at Palayamkottai, opened a training school at Kadachapuram which later on became the nucleus of the Sarah Tucker Training School[8].

Educational Policy of the Madras Government and its Impact on the District

It is a matter of interest to look back upon a few historical landmarks of modern education in the State and its impact on the district. In 1822, some facts about the educational system in Tirunelveli were brought to light as a result of a State wide enquiry, conducted under the orders of Sir Thomas Munro. The enquiry revealed that the public instruction was in a bad state. The few schools that existed in the district were in fact nothing better than the indigenous schools. So, in 1826 Sir Thomas Munro constituted a board to organise a system of Public instruction with authority to establish schools both at the district level and at the taluk level throughout the State. In every collectorate, according to the plan there were to be two Collectorate schools, one for the Hindus and the other for the Muslims under one or more teachers trained in various subjects in the Normal School at Madras. In every Tahsildary, there was to be a Tahsildary School under a competent school master, but he was not to receive any training in Madras as the Collectorate teacher. In the Collectorate Schools, English was to be taught as one of the language along with the language of the district. In the Tahsildary school, the entire teaching was to be conducted in the language of the district.[9]

The subjects taught in these schools were not in any way different from the subjects taught in the indigenous schools. The new scheme aimed at the establishment of a few well managed schools so that, they might be held out as models for the numerous indigenous schools which were considered to be in an unsatisfactory condition. In accordance with the new scheme, a Collectorate school and two Tahsildary schools were opened in Tirunelveli District.[10] But, all these schools in this district as well

as in other districts in the Madras State soon turned out to be total failures. The teachers of the Collectorate schools were described as *the refuse of the expectants on the Collectors list* while the teachers of the Tahsildary schools were said to be inferior, on the whole, to the common village masters.[11]

A new era dawned in 1830, when the Court of Directors of the East India Company advocated the filtration theory of education which demanded a very high standard of academic attainment. According to this theory, the best results could be obtained by educating the higher classes in the first instance and leaving it to them to create a desire for education among masses. Then, there was another controversy as to whether English or the Indian languages should be given prominence in the scheme of education. The controversy reached its climax in the famous Minutes of Lord Macaulay of 1833 and the equally famous Resolution of Lord William Bentinck, (7 March 1833) which endorsed the Minutes of Macauley by observing that the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of European literature and science and that all funds appropriated for the purpose of education would be spent on English education alone.

In consequence of this policy, the Collectorate and Tahsildary Schools in Tirunelveli as well as in other districts were abolished in 1836 and the Board of Instruction was superseded by a *Committee of Native Education* and the committee was directed to organise a Normal school for training teachers for the new English schools which were to be eventually opened in the different parts of the State. This committee was shortly afterwards replaced by the University Board constituted in January 1840 by Lord Elphinstone, the then Governor of Madras. The University Board was replaced by the University of Madras through Legislative action on 5 September 1857. By 1854, the filtration theory had been discarded and the policy of mass education inaugurated. As a result, the University was remodelled; a Department of Education was organised . Provision was also made for a Normal School, a few Provincial schools, several taluk schools, depots for School books and educational presses and scholarships.

The experiment of *private sector* in education since 1855, with the formulation of the grants-in-aid rules, resulted in the establishment of a number of aided institutions, such as Boarding School at Sattankulam (1856). During the period, 1856-1857, there were 273 schools aided by Government with 7088 students in the district. In 1871 with the constitution of the local bodies under the Town Improvement Act and the Local Board Act, initiative was given to local authorities to organise education.[12]

Growth of Education 1871-1947

The composite Tirunelveli district had 423 middle schools and 243 primary schools for boys and fourteen middle schools and 21 primary schools for girls during 1870-1871.[13] In 1875-1876, there were 323 aided schools with 12,937 pupils, besides 729 schools aided by Local Funds on the results system. The number of pupils in the later case on an average was about 30 for each school, giving 21,870 pupils or a total of about 34,807 children under instruction. The Anglo-vernacular school at Tirunelveli, as well as several of the missionary schools, carry education to a high standard.[14] In the year 1880-1881, the number of primary schools both boys and girls had risen from 264 to 1087.

For Revenue administration, the Presidency was divided into 22 educational districts, and these are grouped by Educational Department into six divisions or Inspectorates in 1881-1882. The composite Tirunelveli district came under the fifth division. In 1881-1882, the total number of indigenous schools in the district were 897 with 22714 pupils studying in them. In 1882-1883, the number of schools under control of the Education Department were 1756 with 50877 pupils. There were no Government schools up to 1882-83.

By the year 1885, in Tirunelveli district, there were two aided arts colleges. They were Church Missionary Society college and Hindu college . The former had 25 students while the latter had 54 students. The details of other educational institutions in the district during 1884-85 are as follows:[15]

English High and Middle Schools (1884-1885)

Sl.No	*Institution*	*Location*	*Nature of Institution*	*Total no.of pupils*	*Total no.of teachers*
1.	C.M.S. High school	Tirunelveli	aided	188	13
2.	C.M.S. High school	Palayamkottai	aided	82	8
3.	St.Xavier's High school	Palayamkottai	aided	211	10
4.	Hindu Middle school	Palayamkottai	aided	92	7
5.	Central school	Tirunelveli	aided	63	5
6.	Hindu High school	Tirunelveli	aided	321	10
7.	8- Middle schools for Hindus	Various places in the town	aided	259	22
8.	10- Middle school for Christians	-do-	aided	504	30
9.	13- Middle Schools for Hindus	Various places in the district	aided	519	34
10.	3- Middle school for Christians	-do-	aided	109	8

Primary schools for boys (1884-85)

Sl. No	Institution	Location	Nature of Institutions	Total no.of pupils	Total no. of teachers
1.	Combined schools for Hindus	Various places in the district	board	25	2
2.	Combined schools for Muslims	-do-	board	29	2
3.	Salary schools for native Christians	Palayamkottai	aided	69	3
4.	Results schools for Hindus	Palayamkottai Municipality	-do-	452	24
5.	Sixteen Results Schools for Hindus	Tirunelveli Municipality	-do-	690	20
6.	,12 Results schools for Christians.	Various parts in towns	-do-	500	14
7.	114 Results schools for Hindus(4 closed)	-do-	-do-	4029	125
8.	One results school for Muslims	Tirunelveli	-do-	52	1
9.	309- results schools for Christians	Various places in the district	-do-	9044	358
10.	439- Results schools for Hindus	-do-	-do-	11228	473
11	One school for Christian	Tirunelveli	un-aided	43	2
12.	23 schools for Hindus in towns.	Various parts	-do-	628	21
13.	72 schools for Christian	Various parts of rural.	-do-	1482	81
14.	180 schools for Hindus	-do-	-do-	3833	170
15.	One night school for native Christians	Tirunelveli rural	-do-	21	1

Primary schools for girls (1884-85)[16]

Sl. No.	Institution	Location	Nature of Institution	Total no.of pupils	Total no.of teachers
1.	2-Results schools for Christians	Palayamkottai municipality	aided	86	6
2.	3-Results schools for Hindus	Tirunelveli municipality	-do-	93	4

Sl. No.	Institution	Location	Nature of Institution	Total no.of pupils	Total no.of teachers
3.	Results school for Hindus	Palayamkottai	-do-	57	2
4.	12-Results schools for Hindus	Various places in the urban	-do-	402	16
5.	61-Results schools for native Christians	Various places in the district	-do-	1546	83
6.	19-Results schools for Hindus	-do-	-do-	472	26
7.	One school for Hindus	Tirunelveli	-do-	20	1
8.	One school for Hindus	Palayamkottai	-do-	22	1
9.	Two schools for Hindus	Tirunelveli town	-do-	54	2
10.	One school for Muslims	Tirunelveli	-do-	33	7
11.	34-schools for Christians	Various places in the district	-do-	652	44
12.	4-schools for Hindus	-do-	-do-	91	4

Vernacular Schools for boys and girls (1884-1885)

Sl. No.	Institution	Location	Nature of Institution	Total no.of pupils	Total no.of teachers
1.	2-Middle schools for Hindus	various places in the district	aided	53	3
2.	4-Boarding schools for native Christians	-do-	-do-	129	8
3.	One Anglo vernacular school	Bramhadesam	unaided	14	1
4.	-do-	Alwarkurichi	-do-	14	1
5.	-do-	Sankarankovil	private	11	2
6.	Miss.Sergeant Boarding girls school	Palayamkottai	aided	50	3
7.	Roman Catholic Boarding girls school	-do-	-do-	30	3

In addition to the Educational Institutions, tabled above the district had an aided Normal School for Masters located in Palayamkottai and an aided Sarah Tucker Training School for Mistresses at that time. In these schools 69 and 103 trainees respectively were trained.

According to 1911Census, the then Tirunelveli district was ranked fourth among the districts of the Presidency in regard to the literacy of its population as a whole. If males alone are considered, the district stood third. In every 10,000 males 2290 were returned as able to read and write.

During 1910-11, two main groups of secondary schools for boys, Brahman schools and the Mission schools existed. The formar schools situated mostly along the river valley, were managed, as a rule, by Committee of Brahmans or of Brahmanas and Vellalas together. The pupils were Brahaman boys. The later schools found either at the important centres of the district like Palayamkottai, Dhonavur, Pannivilai and Surandai.[17]

There were five high schools for boys in1910, two at Palayamkottai and one each at Pattamadai, Ambasamudram, and Gopalasamudram. In the year 1911, there were more than 1700 elementary schools, including119 for girls. Local Boards and Municipalities were responsible for 163, of the total number of the aided schools the majority were maintained by missionary societies. Three hundred and seventy of the elementary schools received no assistance either from Government or Local bodies.

There were three Sanskrit schools maintained by Taluk Boards at Tenkasi, Thirukkurungudi and Kallidaikurichi. They were supported from endowments which the local boards administered. There were four training schools (including sessional schools) for male teachers, one of which in Tirunelveli was maintained by Government.The C.M.S. had one at Palayamkottai and two sessional schools one at Palayamkottai and other being itinerent. The table below shows the number of schools and scholars in the then Tirunelveli district during the year 1926.

Educational Institutions in 1926

Sl. No.		*No. of Institutions for*		*No.of students*	
		Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Public Institutions					
1.	Arts colleges	3	1	499	16
2.	Secondary schools	31	9	8244	1277
3.	Elementary schools	1902	175	78313	23937
4.	Training schools	5	2	458	118

5.	Special schools	11	-	287	240
6.	Oriental schools	1	-	1	-
Private schools					
7.	Advanced schools	2	-	207	175
8.	Elementary schools	125	-	3761	736

In 1932 the district had, two first grade colleges ,St.Xavier's college at Palayamkottai owned by the Jesuit Mission and the Hindu college at Tirunelveli bridge managed by an Educational Society of the place registered under Act XXI of 1860, two colleges of the second grade belonging to the Church Missionary Society one of which for boys. St.John's College(formerly called C.M.S College) was removed in 1928 from Tirunelveli to Palayamkottai where there was also the other colleges, Sarah Tuckar for Girls, a College for teaching Sanskrit at Kallidaikurichi, 32 secondary schools for boys , 8 schools for girls, 3 secondary schools for Sanskrit studies, 2605 elementary schools (of which 324 were for girls only). 8 Industrial schools and 3 special schools for deaf and dumb and for blind children.[18]

During 1940s, aided Missions and non-Mission agencies showed grater enthusiasm to provide educational facilities for the people of the district. Out of the 2169 elementary schools, for boys with an enrolment of 121059. 1807 were aided schools, of which 320 elementary schools for girls and 149 were managed by aided agencies. The enrolment in the elementary schools for girls was 19694. The District Board managed 6 High schools and the Mission and non mission bodies each managed 5 middle schools and 10 high schools. The High schools were Board High School, Kovilpatti; Board High School, Nanguneri; Board High School, Kadayanallur; Board High School, Tenkasi; Board High School, Sankarankoil; C.M.High School, Tirunelveli;Hindu College School, Tirunelveli; Sri.Mandira Murthi High School, Tirunelveli; St.Francis Xavier's College High School, Palayamkottai; St.John's College High School, Palayamkottai; High School, Gopalasamudram, Thirthapathi High School, Ambasamudram; High School, Pattamadai; M.E.L.M. High School Vadakkankulam; St.Theresa High School, Vadakkankulam;The middle schools were Hindu Middle School, Veeravanallur; Ramasamy pillai middle school, Illangi; Hindu School, Alwarthirunagari; George Middle School, Kallidaikurichi; M.E.L.M.School, Vadakkankulam; C.M.S.Mary Adam School, Palayamkottai; C.M.S.School, Surandai; C.M.S.School, Dhonavur ; The two high schools run exclusively for girls were the St.Sarah Tucker School, Palayamkottai and St.Ignatious School, Palayamkottai.[19]

The only middle school for girls was the C.M.S.Mary Sargeant School at Palayamkottai. The Government maintained a Training School for Masters at Tirunelveli and 3 Training Schools, for Mistresses which were Government

Higher Elementary Training School at Tirunelveli, Sarah Tucker Training School at Palayamkottai and St.John's Training School at Palayamkottai. The Industrial Schools were C.M.S.Industrial School for Blind at Palayamkottai , St.Ignatious Industrial School for the Blind at Palayamkottai, K.C.Lace School in Vadakkankulam, Hindu Girls Industrial School in Kudankulam, T.D.T.A Blind Boys School at Palayamkottai, C.M.S.Deaf and Dumb School at Palayamkottai and T.D.T.A Blind School for Girls at Palayamkottai.

The Role of Christian Mission in the Promotion of Education

Bishop Middleton, the first Anglican Bishop of Calcutta who visited Tirunelveli in 1816 reports that he found in Palayamkottai a mission church and a Christian school with 41 children . In the same year James Hough was appointed as Government Chaplain in Tirunelveli.He mentions the existence of several small Christian schools; but complaints that had no books and proper teachers. In 1818 he purchased a site near the Holy Trinity Church at Palayamkottai and started a school nearby. When he left Palayamkottai,two years later he had opened as many as 12 schools in the district. In Palayamkottai he had also established Preparatory schools for the training of teachers. It was developed later into secondary training schools.[20]

In 1819, the Rev. Hough, Chaplain at Palayamkottai solicited from the Government pecuniary aid to the extent of 25 pagodas per month for the support of two schools, one at Palayamkottai and other at Tirunelveli. He had opened those schools in the preceding years (1817, 1818) under the auspices of Madras Corresponding Committee of the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S.) for the instruction of native youth in reading, writing,arithmatic and the elements of English grammar. These schools were under the immediate superintendance of Rev. Hough; they were attended by the children of all castes. The books used in them were the New Testament, Shelter History of Bible, the Psalter with Lindly Murray's Grammar and the usual English spelling books and it was observed that, the introduction of the Christian scripture excited no alarm in the minds of the local populace.The Madras Government conceiving, however that they were not interested in the support of schools of such a nature, "declined compliance with application.[21]

In 1823, the first girls' boarding school was opened by Mrs.Rhenius in the district which is now called St.Mary's Sargeant Girls Boarding School. The first training school for women teachers was opened at Kadachapuram in 1843, where it was carried on for 13 years. It was then closed down owing to the difficulties of obtaining adequate staffs and for two years a class for training women was attached to the Palayamkottai Training School for Men. However in 1858, a separate Training Institution for Women was opened and called Sarah Tucker Training Institution.

Another forward step was taken in 1844 when the missionaries opened Anglo-Vernacular school for boys in Palayamkottai, the first of its kind in Tirunelveli district. This school developed into old Palayamkottai High school and later into St. John's College. A matriculation class was opened in 1871 and in 1878 it was affiliated to University of Madras for the First degree of Arts (F.A.) course. In the meantime another Anglo-Vernacular school on similar lines was opened in Tirunelveli town in 1889 and the college was moved from Palayamkottai and attached to this school. In 1896, the high school and college were moved to a new site on the road between the Junction and the town. In 1928 the college was once again shifted to Palayamkottai where new buildings had been planned.

In 1891, a school was opened for blind boys and girls. The Orphanage for the Deaf and Dumb at Palayamkottai was started in 1899 by Miss.Swainson by private subscription. The school today is one of the best institution imparting education and giving vocational training for the self support of the physically handicapped in the State. Palayamkottai is also known for its Borstal School for juvenile offenders.[22]

Missionary societies played a larger role in the elementary instruction. The society for the propagation of the Gospel (SPG) in foreign countries supported nearly 186 schools in 1854. Most of these school were in Tirunelveli and neighbouring districts. In these schools over 5000 pupils including 1400 girls were studying. The society spent nearly Rs.40,000/- for the education activities in 1852 and Rs.30,000/- in 1853. The S.P.G.Mission started schools in Dhonavur, Surandai and Pannaivillai, all places in the interior parts of the district.

At present, there are different categories of schools like, the primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools and teacher training institutes in the district. There are about a half a dozen colleges in the district. There are special institutes for handicapped, the school for the deaf, the Centre for the blind and school for mentally retarded all of which come under this category. The Catholic Institutes form a good number among them.

Elementary Education

Until about 1920, Elementary Education was left in the hands of christian missionaries, private trusts and individuals. The State did not interfere; but in 1920, the Elementary Education Act was enacted which set up an education council for each district in the state. This Council consisted of persons, some nominated by the Government and others elected by the local bodies. All matters concerning elementary education were to be carried on only in consultation with this body. In common, with other districts, Tirunelveli also had such a council established. These councils laid a great emphasis on wide diffusion of elementary education. The Madras Educational Act was later modified, so as to introduce an element of

compulsion. The heads of Municipalities, District Boards, etc., were empowered to impose penalties on parents who withdrew their children from elementary schools. The District Education Council came to be replaced by Taluk Advisory Councils in 1939 which were in turn abolished a couple of years later (1941) after its powers were vested with the department of education. In 1946, the element of compulsion and penal powers which hitherto vested with municipal chairman and district board presidents were transferred to the District Educational Officers. The overall effect of these measures was to raise the percentage of pupils passing through the Vth standard. As a consequences of the various measures adopted by the Government, elementary education could progress to a great extent in this district.[23]

History of Education Administration since 1956

The Tirunelveli Revenue district had two District Educational Officers (D.E.O.) in 1956 as District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli East and Tirunelveli West. Both the Offices were located at Tirunelveli. The former had jurisdiction over the schools in the taluks of Srivaikuntam, Thiruchendur, Vilathikulam and Kovilpatti, while the latter had jurisdiction over the schools in the taluks of Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Ambasamudram, Sankarankoil and Nanguneri. In each taluk, there were Deputy Inspectors of schools and Junior Inspectors of schools, to assist the District Educational Officer having inspection control of the Primary and Middle schools. The Deputy Inspectors were under the control of the District Educational Officer. The following were the number of schools in the jurisdiction of the District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli East and District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli West in 1956.[24]

	District Educational Officer Tirunelveli East	*District Educational Officer Tirunelveli West*
Primary schools and Higher Elementary schools.	293	976
High schools	53	37
Training schools	4	5

In the year 1957 one more post of District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli North at Thoothukkudi in the composite district was created and the three District Educational Officers exercised jurisdiction over the areas as noted below:

District Educational Officer	*Jurisdiction*
District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli Central, at Palayamkottai.	Taluks of Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi and Shencottah.
District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli South at Palayamkottai.	Taluks of Nanguneri and Thiruchendur.
District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli North at Thoothukkudi.	Taluks of Srivaikuntam, Vilathikulam,Kovilpatti and Sankarankoil.

In the year 1961, a new post of Inspectress of Girls School was created at Tirunelveli, and the Girls High school in the district which were originally under the inspection and control of the Inspectress of Girls school, Madurai were brought under her control. In the year 1963, a new post of Divisional Inspector of School was created. The Officer had jurisdiction over the Revenue Districts of Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, and Kanniyakumari and the District Educational Officers and Inspectress of Girls Schools were brought under his/her control. Also a post of Special District Educational Officer was created in the year 1963 for the administration of the District Board High Schools on the abolition of the District Boards. However, the Inspection and control of the District Board Schools were continued to vest with the respective Educational Officers in the case of Boys High Schools and Inspectress of Girls Schools for girls High schools.

In 1968, the post of Divisional Inspector of the Schools was redesignated as Chief Educational Officer, Tirunelveli. Her jurisdiction was limited to Tirunelveli Revenue District alone.The post of Special District Educational Officer, was abolished and the post of District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli North at Kovilpatti was created and the name of the post of District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli North at Thoothukkudi was changed as District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli East at Thoothukkudi and the jurisdiction of the District Educational Officer was as shown hereunder:

District Educational Officer	*Jurisdiction*
District Educational officer Tirunelveli Centralat Palayamkottai	Taluks of Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, and Shencottai
District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli South at Palayamkottai	Taluks of Nanguneri and Ambasamudram.

District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli East at Thoothukkudi	Taluks of Srivaikuntam and Thoothukkudi.
District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli North at Kovilpatti.	Taluks of Kovilpatti, Sankarankoil and Vilathikulam.

In the year 1981, when the Panchayat Union Schools, were taken over by the Government 18 posts of Assistant Educational Officers were created at the ratio of one Assistant Educational Officer for each Panchayat Union and the administration of Panchayat Union schools was vested with them. The respective Deputy Inspector of schools were left with the inspection and control of the Panchayat Union schools.

In the year 1986, the Revenue District of Tirunelveli was bifurcated as Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi districts and a new post of District Educational Officer at Tenkasi was created and the name of posts of the District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli Central was changed as District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli and the District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli South was redesignated as District Educational Officer, Cheranmadevi. Tirunelveli district had the following District Educational Officers/ Inspectress of Girls School/ Assistant Educational Officers for Deputy Inspector of Schools and had jurisdiction as detailed below:

District Educational Officer	*Jurisdiction*
District Educational Officer, Tirunelveli	Taluks of Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai and Sankarankoil
District Educational Officer,	Taluks of Cheranmahadevi Ambasamudram, Nanguneri and Radhapuram
District Educational Officer, Tenkasi	Taluks of Tenkasi, Shencottah and Sivagri
Inspectress of Girls school, Tirunelveli	Entire Revenue District of Tirunelveli
Assistant Educational Officers	18 at the ratio of one Assistant Educational officer for each Panchayat Union except the Panchayat Union, Shencottah.
Deputy Inspector of schools	24

In the year 1989, 21 Offices of the Deputy Inspectress of Schools were merged with the 18 offices of the Assistant Educational Officers and the designation of the three Deputy Inspector of schools having jurisdiction in the Municipal areas of Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai and Deputy Inspector of School, Shencottah were changed as Assistant Educational Officers as given below:

District Educational Officers	*Assistant Educational Officers*
Tirunelveli	Manur, Palayamkottai rural, Palayamkottai urban, Sankarankoil, Melaneelithanallur and Kuruvikulam.
Tenkasi	Tenkasi,Kadayanallur, Vasudevanallur, Alangulam, Keelapavoor and Shencottah.
Cheranmahadevi	Ambasamudram, Cheranmahadevi, Kadayam, Pappakudi, Kalakad, Nanguneri, Valliyoor, and Radhapuram.

Educational Development

The composite Tirunelveli district registered further growth of education in the post - indipendence era and had the following number of Institutions and pupils on rolls in 1956.

Institution	*No.of schools*	*No. of pupils.*	
		Boys	*Girls*
Primary Schools and Higher Elementary Schools.	226	172093	117120
High Schools	90	31629	10659
Training Schools	9	480	240

The expansion of educational facilities was at its peak during 1950's since the first five year plan (1951-56) gave special thrust to development of education. Large number of schools were permitted to be opened in all villages which have a population of 500 and do not have elementary school within a radius of one mile. Subsequently, as an incentive for the children to join and attend the schools, school midday meal was provided in Elementary schools (including middle schools) and this has a major role in promoting and retaining enrolment in schools. From the year 1964, free education was provided upto S.S.L.C. Free uniforms, free books, note books and free chappals were provided to pupils. Till 1977-78, the educational

pattern in Tamil Nadu was 11 year schooling, one year pre-university, and three year degree course in colleges. The 11 + 1 + 3 pattern of education was changed from 1978-79 into 10 + 2 + 3 pattern i.e. 10 years of School education, two years higher secondary course in schools and three years degree courses. Eighty three High schools were upgraded into higher secondary schools in the year 1978 in the district. In 1986 the district was bifurcated and the number of schools before and after bifurcation is as follows:

Type of schools	*Before Bifurcation*	*After Bifurcation*
Primary Schools	2801	1798
Middle Schools	683	354
High Schools	136	84
Higher Secondary Schools	136	77
Training Schools	9	6

The number of schools and pupils in Tirunelveli district as on 1st August 1993 is as follows:

Type of schools	*No. of schools*	*No. of pupils*	
		Boys	*Girls*
Primary schools	1540	166650	136196
Middle schools	397	115489	109514
High schools	96	31110	23088
Higher secondary schools	119	73292	48698
Teacher Training schools	6	245	245

Government, Municipalities, Panchayat Unions, Tirunelveli Diocese Trust Association of Palayamkottai, Roman Catholic Association of Thoothukkudi, Brother of Sacred Heart and individual Muslims, Christians and Hindus are the agencies that run schools in the district.

Type of schools	*Govt.*	*Panchayat*	*Municipal*	*Aided*	*Unaided*
Primary schools	48	538	43	89	16
Middle schools	6	82	14	29	3
High schools	51	-	2	4	2
Higher secondary school	37	-	3	61	15
Training schools	02	-	-	-	4

Teacher Training Institutes

The unrecognised Teacher Training Institutes which proliferated in the district between 1991 and 1993, were closed down in the same speed with which they sprang up. This is consequent on the de-recognition of these Training Institutes by the High Court, Chennai, that ruled that they were improperly established, in violation of the norms and conditions prescribed by the Government for establishing such institutes.

The number of recognised Training schools in the district is six and they are Government Teacher Training Institute for Men at Munanjipatti, Government Teacher Training Institute, Samugarengapuram; Bishop Sargent Teacher Training Institute, Palayamkottai; Christu Raja Teacher Training Institute, Palayamkottai; Sarah Tucker Teacher Training Institute for women, Palayamkottai and Ooliyasthanam Teacher Training Institute for Women, Palayapettai and Tirunelveli.

The Government Teacher Training Institute for Women at Munanjipatti which was functioning till 1989 was changed as District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Munanjipatti since1990. It functions as a model for all the Primary and Middle schools in offering effective Training in methodology and innovation techniques of teaching in all subjects. The District Institute of Education and Training Munanjipatti is conducting Teacher Training course of two years duration 25 men and 25 women.[25]

Bishop Sargent Teacher Training Institute

Bishop Sargent Teacher Training Institute owes its existence to a 'SEMINARY' established by Rev. James Hough in 1818 with nine students with a view to training teachers and church workers to serve in schools and churches. In 1856, the Seminary was recognised by the Madras Education Department as a training school. In 1912, the school was recognised by the Director of Public Instruction, Chennai and was named C.M.S. Secondary Training School. Later from 1928, the school was called Bishop Sargent Secondary Training School and from 1975, it has been named Bishop Sargent Teacher Training Institute.[26]

School Education

At present, the general education has been divided into five stages: They are:

1.	Primary	-	I - V	standards.
2.	Middle	-	VI - VIII	standards.
3.	High	-	IX - X	standards.
4.	Higher Secondary	-	XI - XII	standards.
5.	Collegiate levels	-	Offer Degree Courses.	

Previously, there were four stages of general education. Primary (Lower elementary and Higher elementary), Secondary, Intermediate and Collegiate. The gradations were that there were five classes, I to V and the sixth class was termed as Form-I. The VI Form was the final class in the secondary education which was followed by the two year intermediate courses and degree courses in colleges.

After Independence, the curriculum of primary education known as basic education, was modified and made life and vocational oriented. The schools that imparted the system of education were called Junior Basic Schools (I to V classes) and Senior Basic Schools (VI-VIII classes). Spinning, weaving, agriculture, gardening and other crafts were included in the syllabus for the basic schools. Later, after dropping the basic schools schemes, the present system was introduced.

At present, Education is free up to Higher Secondary level and the collegiate-education also has been made free of cost to certain category of socially and economically weaker sections. Thus, the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes; most backward and backward class students enjoy certain concessions, in paying fees. There are also reservations in the admission to educational institutions at collegiate level. Instructions in elementary schools became free in all schools in Public Managements during 1957-1958. But, it was open to the private management to levy a reasonable tuition fee. Education upto secondary level was made free in 1964. Tuition fee concession for pre-University courses, which on introduction of courses in Higher Secondary schools was abolished during 1969-1970 was also offered. Apart from fee concessions, scholarships and free hostels are also provided to the scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Most Backward Class, and Other Backward Class students by the Government. To encourage higher studies through Tamil language, stipends are given to the students who opt to study degree courses in Tamil.

After 1882, when the local boards came into existence the imparting of elementary education became an obligatory duty of the Boards. The District Boards maintained secondary schools also. After the abolition of District Boards by Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act 1958, the Board schools became Government schools.

The responsibility of maintaining educational institutions are vested with Government departments (Department of Education, Departments of Backward Classes, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare, Social Welfare) Private agencies aided by the Government, Municipalities, Missionaries and private educational trusts. Prior to 1981, the local bodies i.e. Panchayat Unions (previously District Board) maintained schools. But, the schools have been brought under the administration of the Department of Education. However, the buildings of the erstwhile Panchayat Union schools are maitained by

respecticve Panchayat Unions. The teachers of the aided schools on a par with the Government teachers are paid from the Government funds; maintenance grants for such schools are paid by the Government.

Pre-Primary Education

The pre-primary education is a British legacy. The advent of the western education and the Christian Missions introduced pre-primary school education in the country. The-primary education (LKG and UKG) is offered in the Nursery section of the Matriculation or Anglo-Indian or Central Board of Secondary Education. Pre Primary education is not a pre condition for getting admission into the first standard of the schools recognised by the Government of Tamil Nadu as per the existing Educational Rules. In Tirunelveli town and in some taluk headquarters of the district, there are few nursery schools attached to the primary or other schools, mostly private or aided-Mission run inclusive.

Primary Education

During 1993-1994, there were 1540 primary schools with 6558 teachers in the district. About 166650 boys and 136196 girls were attending these schools during the year.

Middle School

The upper primary schools during British period became higher elementary schools later and now it bears the nomenclature of Middle schools. All schools which have classes I to VIII (or in rare cases- classes VI to VIII) are called Middle schools. The final year examination is called ESLC (Elementary School Leaving Certificate) Examination. At present, the Director of Government Examinations conduct examinations for those who had dropped out of school in any class. The students could appear for the examination directly and the only condition is that they should have attained a prescribed age. But, in the regular study, the ESLC Examination are conducted by the Department officials at the district level. During the year 1993-94, there were 397 middle schools having about 115489 boys and 109514 girls with a total number of 4762 teachers.

High Schools

What were secondary schools prior to 1960 became high schools later. The duration of the high school study was three years (i.e. IX, X and XI) until the introduction of the higher secondary course in 1978 when it was reduced to two years i.e. Std. IX and X Public Examinations are conducted on the completion of the high school study by the Director of Government Examinations. The certificate issued by the Board of Secondary Education is Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC). The certificate still bears the name of Secondary School though the nomenclature of the secondary school was changed to high school.

During 1993-94, there were 95 high schools in the district, of which Government - run schools were 49, the Tirunelveli Corporation - run one, Department of Adi-dravidas Welfare - run one, and the aided management - run 44. Of the 95 schools, nine were exclusively for girls while the most of the remaining were co-educational. In these schools, totally, there were 1488 teachers, teaching 31110 boys and 23088 girls. A list of primary and middle (block wise) and high schools (Educational districtwise) as in 1993-94 and the statistics on number of institutions, students and teachers in the schools since 1947 are given in the *Appendixes 1,2 and 3* respectively[27].

Schools for the Handicapped

In the year 1892-93 there were three blind schools in the Presidency, one for blind boys, one for blind girls at Palayamkottai and other for blind boys at Pannaivilai in Thoothukkudi district. The three schools, respectively, were attended by 15, 11 and eight students who fell with in the age group of eight to 27. Instruction was given in these schools in regarding and writing up to fourth standard. Rope making, basket making,rope net making were taught to boys and basket making and knitting to girls.[28]

The blind school at Palayamkottai was set up in 1890 by Miss Askwith, a Protestant Missionary in the district. An interesting anecdote about the establishment of this Blind School runs like this. In 1890, a blind boy when approached Miss. Askwith, who was instrumental in starting Sarah Tucker College, for alms, she spontaneously replied "we are here to impart education, not to dispense charity". The boy shot back *Then give me education*. Moved deeply by these words, she admitted the boy in her home as a student. Thus, came into existence the Blind school, the strength of which Miss Askwith increased, steadily. By 1906, the number of pupils in this school was 62. Before being moved to the new building, constructed in the High ground in Palayamkottai, in 1909, the Blind school was within the campus of Sarah Tucker college attached to it.

Miss Anne Jane Askwith (1888-1918) deviced Braille Code in Tamil language which was called as Askwith Braille'. The first Principal Mr. D. Edward Jonathan was the architect of the present institution (1951-1975). During his tenure, the institution had created many spheres in the service of the blind such as Integrated Education for the Blind, Nursery Section, Vocational Centre, Shelted workshop, etc. In 1987, Home for Aged Blind Women and Training Centre for Adult Blind were started. In 1988, a programme for the blind children with additional disabilities (Multiple disabled children) was launched.

The Deaf and Dumb School

Florence Swainson Deaf and Dumb school at Palayamkottai is the third school opened for the deaf in India. Miss Swainson of the Church of

England Zenana Missionary Society, was teaching in the Sarah Tucker college at Palayamkottai, when one day, two deaf girls turned up, before her, for help. She thought over their needs for special education and before long, a small class for deaf was started by her in 1897. Soon, a site of 14 acres was purchased and buildings were put up for school out of public donations. Miss Swainson got Government recognition first for the boys' section in1889 and then for the girls' section in 1898. The amalgamation of the two schools, was recognised by the Directorate of Public Instructions, Chennai in 1901. The student strength of the school gradually went up and in 1914 it crossed the three digit figure . Poor children from all over the country came to this school which offered Tamil, Malayalam and English medium classes.[29]

Importance was given to speech training. When the children came for general education, regular school syllabus was followed from standard I to XII. The hearing impaired children appeared for SSLC and Higher secondary public examinations along with normal children. The school could take pride with the fact that during April 1995, the first batch of students appeared for higher secondary examination, and five out of seven came out successfully. After general education, this institution provides vocational training course for a couple of years in electronics, tailoring, sewing and dress-making, carpentry, automobile and book binding. Every year, about 35 to 40 students complete their vocational, training course. After completion of the course, they are provided with necessary tools and machines, free of cost, to embark on self-employment.[30]

Higher Secondary Education

Higher Secondary course was introduced in Tamil Nadu in 1978, by merging the 11th standard of the high schools and the Pre-University Course of the college making its duration for two years. The hitherto eleven year study upto high school level was reduced to 10 years and the Pre-University Course in the colleges was abolished. The two year higher secondary education forms a Sandwich course between school education and collegiate education. (The first is called XI standard or +1, and the second year is called XII standard or +2). The introduction of Higher secondary course in the State, has helped to achieve a certain extent,the Government's policy of extending the higher educational facilities to rural areas; as there are more than two higher secondary schools in each taluk. Selected high schools were upgraded as higher secondary schools and while doing so due-care was taken to locate atleast one higher secondary school in a Block Development area.

The syllabus for the course was framed improving the erstwhile pre-university syllabus and grouped into I, II, III and vocational. (A.B,C,D vocational). Normally, the subjects under the Group I consist of

School for the Blind, Palayamkottai

Mathematics (two papers), Physics, Chemistry or Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology and Group II consists of Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology; or Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Siddha. The third group consists of the subjects like History, Economics, Commerce, Accountancy, Politics, Geography, Logic, etc. Under vocational system, subjects like Mechanical and Civil Draughtsmanship, Electrical wiring, re-winding, typewriting, General insurance, General Mechanics, Office Secretaryship, Auditing, and Accountancy, Agriculture, Nursing etc., are taught. In Science curriculum consists of theory, laboratory and practical works. The Higher Secondary examinations are conducted by the Director of Government Examinations.

When 10 + 2 + 3 (10 year high school, + 2 year higher secondary course, + 3 year college studies) system was introduced, in the composite Tirunelveli district 83 high schools were upgraded as Higher Secondary schools. Since then there had been steady increase in the number of higher secondary schools in the district every year it crossed 100 during the year 1981. In 1986, the number of higher secondary schools got reduced to 84 because the district was bifurcated into Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi. In 1993, there were 106 higher secondary schools having 3353 teachers and a student strength of 73292 boys and 48698 girls. Of the 106 higher secondary schools in the district, 42 are Government higher secondary schools (including three corporation schools and two schools run by Adi-Dravida Welfare Department) and the rest being Government aided and self financing schools of which 10 schools admit only girl students. Statistics showing the number of schools, teachers and students in the Higher Secondary Course in the district since 1978-79 are given below:[31]

Year	*No of schools*	*No of teachers*		*No of students*	
		Men	*Women*	*Boys*	*Girls*
1978	83	4333	1672	66112	55125
1979	87	4339	1683	68212	57202
1980	92	4346	1694	69777	59610
1981	104	4355	1706	71105	60014
1982	119	4359	1717	72674	61204
1983	134	4370	1732	73788	63147
1984	135	4384	1745	74997	65745
1985	136	4393	1763	75755	68154
1986	137	4397	1767	75656	69114
1987	84	1981	1114	53145	32754

1988	86	2034	1183	54902	33075
1989	96	2055	1198	55029	34698
1990	98	2058	1205	55804	35079
1991	99	2070	1212	72845	48394
1992	102	2105	1236	73208	48635
1993	106	2110	1243	73292	48698

A list of name and their locations of higher secondary schools in the district as in 1993-94 are given in *Appendix - 4.*

NCC, NSS and Sports

The extra curricular activities that have been introduced in the schools and colleges help the students equip themselves in several aspects. At the higher secondary level, the National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Social Service (NSS) and other service leagues exist. All high and higher secondary schools and some middle and primary schools have a separate teacher for Physical Education. Physical Education forms part of school curriculum. The services of the volunteers of NSS at the higher secondary school level are utilised in regulating road traffic. These NSS volunteers are guided by a teacher programme co-ordinator who formulates programmes and executes them.

It is the sports meet among the schools at zonal level that help develop inter personal relationship between students and teachers. Each of the three educational districts, viz., Tirunelveli , Cheranmahadevi and Tenkasi have been divided into four zones for conducting zonal level sports. The winners in the zonal level sports meet qualify to take part in the Educational district level sports. At the district level, competitions are held in all major games such as football, hockey, basket ball, volley ball, badminton, kho-kho, kabadi, etc.[32]

Physical Education

For the administration of physical education in schools, Chief Inspector of Physical Education for boys' schools and Chief Inspectress of Physical Education for Girls' schools, are functioning in Chennai under the direct control of the Director of School Education. To assist the Chief Inspector and Inspectress of Physical Education, there are Regional Inspectors and Inspectress of Physical Education. In Tirunelveli there is office for Regional Inspector of Physical Education. The Regional Inspector has jurisdiction over the entire Revenue District.

Two sets of students i.e., the students studying in XI-XII below the age of19 years will be allowed to participate in all State level games and students studying in VI to X standard not exceeding 17 years will be

allowed to participate State level matches of foot ball, volley ball, hockey, kho-kho, basket ball, kabadi and ball badminton. All schools in the District including Matriculation, and Anglo Indian schools are corporate members of the Atheletic Association. The District Atheletic Association conducts the tournament from the funds received from schools, as affiliation fee which is usually 4 per cent of the fee total collection of games fee, from schools. In addition, each school will have pay Rs. 10/- per game as entrance fee. The Government allot Rs.500/- towards the conduct of Zonal sports and Rs.600/- towards the conduct of District sports. The district has hosted State level meet such as Bharathiar State Sports (1983) and Republic Day sports 1982. In Tirunelveli district, there are two sports Stadium, Anna Sports Stadium and V.O.Chidambaranar Stadium. There is a sports hostel also. Name of the prize winning schools from 1986-1987 to 1992-1993 are given in the *Appendix-5.*[33]

Manonmaniam Sundaranar University

Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (MSU) was set up in the year 1990. Named after the famous post-literature- academician, Prof. Sundaram Pillai, the University has inherited a strong network of 51 affiliated colleges (now 58). Many of these colleges have contributed significantly to the cause of higher education for many decades. There are five colleges a Womens college inclusive, which are more than 100 years old. The University campus located at Abishekapatti, is nine kilometres away from Tirunelveli town.

Academic Programmes

Advanced studies are offered in various departments coming under different schools and faculties. Postgraduate programmes in Chemistry, Communication, Computer Science, English, Environmental studies, History, Mathematics, Physics, Sociology and Statistics are being currently offered.

The undergraduate programmes in affiliated colleges have been restructured to make them relevant to social needs and societal aspirations, to increase employment potential and sensitise the students to becoming a socially conscious person. Complementary to this exercise, the University has introduced a compulsory component of foundation courses as part IV. The courses relate to History of Freedom Movement in India, Gandhian Thought, Ecology, Environment and Pollution studies, Status of Women in India, History of Science, Indian Economy Since Independence, Rural India, Consumer Protection and Social Responsibility in Business and Secularism.

The University has set up the centre for Environmental studies at Alwarkurichi in collaboration with a leading industrial house (Amalgamations). Eco-friendly ventures in aquaculture, fishing and agro inputs are encouraged. The centre has developed an organic manure, Mano compost.[34]

Extra Curricular Activities

In the sphere of co-curricular activities, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps(N.C.C), Youth and Fine Arts Wings and a University group have been formed. Sports, have been made compulsory.

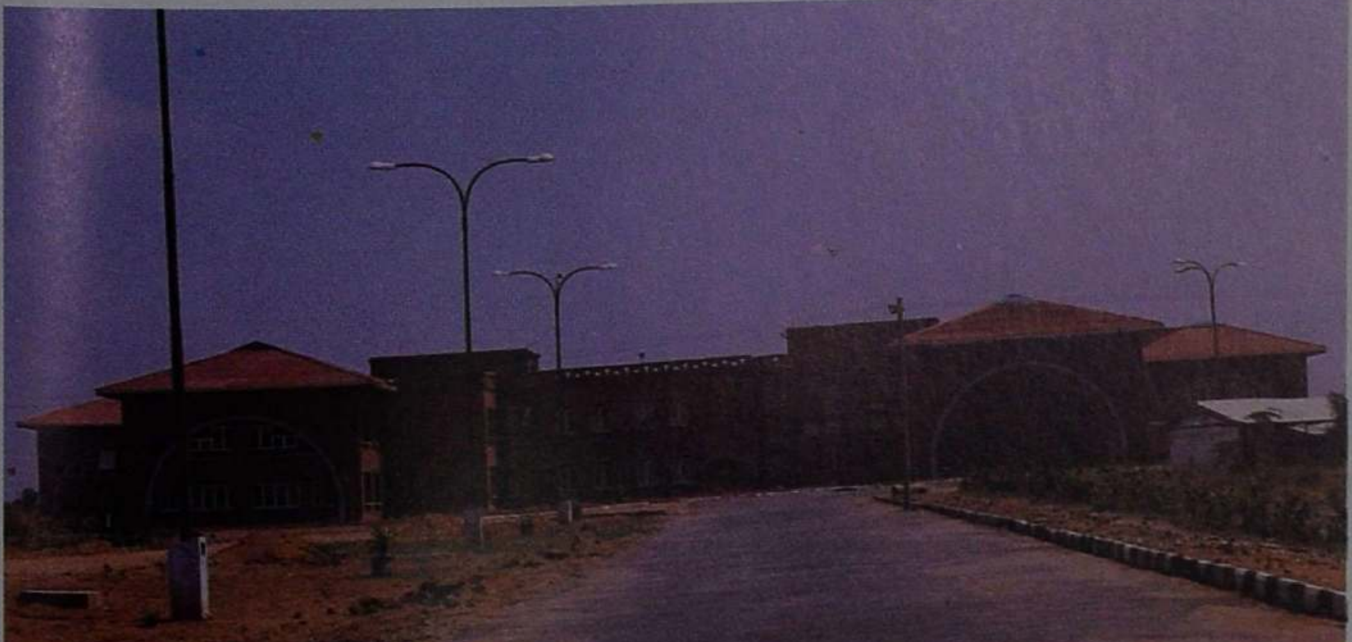
Courses offered in various schools and in the University are given below:

School	*Departments*	*Courses.*
Mathematical Science	Mathematics	M.Sc. Maths.
	Statistics	M.Sc Statistics
		M.Sc. Operation
Physical & Chemical Science	Physics	M.Sc. Physics
	Chemistry	M.Sc. Chemistry
Computer Science	Computer Science	M.Sc. Computer Science
		M.C.A. (3 years)
Social Sciences	History	M.A.History
	Sociology	M.A. Sociology
Languages	English	M.A. English
Centre for Environmental Studies-Alwarkurichi	Master's and Diploma Programmes in Vermiculture or Wasteland development.	
The Institute for Artenia Research and Aquaculture studies Rajakkamangalam.	Master's and Diploma Programmes in Aquaculture and coastal Aquaculture.	
Communications	Communications	M.A. Communication

Collegiate Education

In 1878, the number of colleges in the district was two and they were the Madurai Dayumanavar Thiraviam Hindu College and St. John's College. These are the oldest colleges in the district. The first college for women and third college of the district, St. Sarah Tucker College came up in 1895. The fourth college started in the district was the St. Xavier's college which took place in the year 1923. St.Xavier's college of Education and St. Ignatious college of Education (both are Training Colleges) were established in 1950 and 1957 respectively. In the year 1963-64, two more colleges , the Paramakalyani college and the Parasakthi college, were added to the list of colleges. Ambai Arts College and Thiruvalluvar College in 1969, Muthuramalinga Devar College and Government Arts College for

Sarah Tucker Women's College, Palayamkottai



Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli

Women were in 1970, Sadaktathullah Appa College and T.D.M.N.S. College in 1971 were started in the district. Except for Government Arts College for Women, all other Colleges are aided private Colleges run by different educational Trusts.

The growing need for higher education and the inability to give admission to a large number of students coming out successfully from the Higher Secondary Examination to seek University Education were not provided sufficiently by the then existing Government and aided colleges in the State was felt by the Government. So in the year 1989, to meet this requirement the Government permitted for starting self financing colleges in Engineering, Medicine and Arts & Science. As such many self financing colleges have coming to existence in the State. In this district there were three self financing colleges. They were Saratha College for Women (1986), Sattanathakarayalar College (1994-95) and Jayaraj Annabakkiam College (1997-98). [35]

Of the 17 Arts colleges that exist in the district at present, eight are co-educational institutions, five exclusively for girls and four exclusively for boys. The colleges in Tirunelveli district had been first affiliated to the University of Madras. But on the creation of the Madurai Kamaraj University in 1966, they had their affiliation with that University from 1966 to 1990. Again from 1990 they got their affiliation transferred to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University on bifurcation. The University has granted autonomous status to the two premier institutions in the district, viz.,St.Xavier's College at Palayamkottai and Sri Parasakthi College for Women at Courtallam.[36]

Collegiate Administration

Prior to 1956, the Director of Public Instruction was the Head of the Department at State Level for all the colleges in the State, besides his other functions. In the year 1965, a separate Department of Collegiate Education was formed and the post of Director of Collegiate Education was created to look after exclusively the administration of colleges. Since then, all colleges in the State have come under the administrative control of the Director of Collegiate Education. Who is the authority to sanction teaching posts, aids and other grants for the aided colleges. The Director is assisted by six Regional Administrative Officers each headed by Regional Joint Director. The six regions are Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore and Tirunelveli.

The Regional Directorate of the Collegiate Education in the district was formed on 10 September 1979, to exercise control over the colleges in Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts.

PROFILE OF EACH COLLEGE IN THE DISTRICT IS GIVEN HERE UNDER

Ambai Arts College

The Ambai Arts College came into existence from July 1969 as an outcome of the hard efforts of Thirthapathi Higher Secondary School Electorate, Ambasamudram. The college was first affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University. Since 1990, this college is affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli. The college offered only Pre-University Course at the time of inception in 1969. At present, it offers B.A., B.Com., and M.A.degree courses. The college introduced B.A.(Economics) and Certificate course in Gandhian Thought in 1973, B.Com in 1975 and M.A.(Economics) and Diploma course in Gandhian Thought in 1984. Students admitted in different courses from 1980 to 1993 are given in *Appendix-6.*[37]

Government Arts college for women

The Government of Tamil Nadu opened a college for women in Tirunelveli during1970-71. The college was started with Pre-University course. The degree courses introduced subsequently were in History, Zoology and Physics. The college now offers degree courses in Economics, History, Tamil Literature, Mathematics, Physics ,Chemistry, Zoology, Commerce and Post-graduate course in English literature. The Strength of students admitted in various courses from 1980-81 to 1993-94 are shown in *Appendix-7.*[38]

Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar College

This college was founded by Prof.A.R.Ponniah, in the year 1970, has been dedicated to the memory of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, deified figure,posthumously, in this State. It is situated 13 km south of Sankarankoil on the State highway road which connects Tirunelveli and Rajapalayam. To begin with, the college, affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University, had only pre-university classes till 1972 with six sections. It was raised to the status of a First grade college from June 1972. The college offer B.A. courses in History, Tamil and English, B.Sc.courses in Maths,Zoology and Chemistry and M.Com., M.A.History, M.Sc.Zoology and Chemistry classes started functioning. Today it is post graduate co-educational institution catering to the educational needs of the rural masses of a most backward area. Out of 854 total students 182 are girls of these about 30 per cent are in the hostels. There are separate hostels for boys and girls. 61 teachers are working in the college. The strength of students admitted in various courses from 1980-81 to 1994-95 are given in *Appendix-8.*[39]

Sadakathullah Appa College

To perpetuate the memory of Sadakathullah Appa, the erudite Arabic scholar and philosopher, saint of Kayalpattinam and Keelakarai (Thoothukkudi District) it was decided to establish an institution of higher learning. This resulted in the founding of the Sadakathullah Appa college in 1971 by a managing committee comprising of munificent Muslim elite of the district. The college is currently run by the Sadakatthullah Appa Educational Society which has benevolent members both at home and abroad. The college is the premier Muslim Institutions of higher learning in the district that has a vast Muslim population.

Instruction is offered at the degree level in Commerce, History,Mathematics, Physics, Zoology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and English literature. The Post-graduate courses offered are M.Com. M.A. History; and M.C.A. Certificate and Diploma courses in Arabic are the other courses being offered. The details of the courses offered in the college at present are given below with year of affiliation.

Name of the courses	*Year of affiliation*
B.A.History	1971
B.A.English literature	1979
B.Sc.Mathematics	1972
B.Sc.Physics	1983
B.Sc.Chemistry	1979
B.Sc.Computer Science	1987
B.Sc.Zoology	1973
B.Com	1972
M.A. History	1980
M.Com	1978
P.G.D.C.A. (Self finance)	1991
M.C.A.	1993

The number of students studied in the college from 1980-81 to 1993-94 are given in *Appendix-9.*[40]

Sarah Tucker College

The Sarah Tucker College for women managed by the Church Missionary Society, is one of the most important institutions of its kind in the Presidency. Affiliated to the Madras University as second grade college, it was first intended only for Christian girls, with a training school and a

high school forming part of this institution. A large number of village schools have been opened throughout the district by the authorities of this college, which supplies trained teachers to staff them. The institution which derives its name from a sister of the Rev.John Tucker, for many years Secretary to the Church Missionary Society in Madras, was started in 1862 as a Primary Training school. It was soon developed in to a middle school. Miss.A.J.Askwith who assumed the management of the institution opened the high school classes in 1890.

In 1895, this institution was raised to a second grade college and later in 1939 upgraded as a first grade college; nine years later shifted from Palayamkottai to its present spacious campus at Perumalpuram. The college was further upgraded as a post-graduate institution in 1971 with M.A.degree courses in English Literature and Tamil Literature. The M.Sc.course in Physics was introduced in 1979, the M.A.Economics course in 1985, the M.Sc.Chemistry in 1986, the M.Sc. Mathematics in 1987 and M.Com.course in 1988. After the introduction of the self financing scheme the Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Computer Application, Personnel Management, Environment and Ecology were introduced in 1991-92 and the M.Sc Zoology course in 1993-94.

The college has three hostels attached to it, the A.V.Thomas Hostel, the Lilly (Vegetarian) Hostel and the Bishop Jebaraj Hostel. These hostels together can accommodate about 600 students and several numbers of the staff. Strength of students studied in the college from 1980 to 1993 are given in *Appendix-10.*[41]

Sri Paramakalyani College

Alwarkurichi, a village with a population of 6000 is situated on the trunk road from Ambasamudram to Tenkasi. It is at the foot of the western ghats at a distance of 4.5 Kilometres from the famous Sivasailam Temple. Around Alwarkurichi there are half a dozen villages with a population of about 15,000. Till the year 1960, this village had no facilities for education. Boys and girls had to go to Kadayam at the distance of six kilometres or to Ambasamudram 11 kilometres to have high school education.The family of Thiru Anantharamakrishnan, the Chairman of Simpson group of companies, felt the educational needs of his native village, Alwarkurichi and caused the creation of Sri Paramakalyani Education Society, with Thiru Anantharamakrishnan as its Life President and Nine other members on the governing body in 1960. The pioneering work of the society began with the starting of Sri Paramakalyani HighSchool which at present has about 750 students. As a process of natural development, this nucleus grew into Sri Paramakalyani college inaugurated in June 1963 with provision for Pre-University classes.

In the next year the college was upgraded with the introduction of the B.Sc. courses in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry. In 1969, a new course of Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A) was introduced. In 1973 B.Sc.Zoology was started and in 1974 in the place of B.A. B.Com., courses were introduced.[42]

Sri Parasakthi college for women

Sri Parasakthi college for women is the first rural college in India and only institution in Tirunelvely,Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts to be conferred with autonomous status by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the approval of the U.G.C. in 1978 (fourteenth year of its inception). It has now completed 19 years of autonomy. Thiru A.R.Subbiah, the founder and Selvi S.Bagirathi,the founder Principal and Secretary should be given credit for this achievement.

This college founded at Courtallam, a tiny village of Tenkasi taluk in 1964, is located in an extent of 20 acres of land donated by the late the Maharaja of Travancore with the aim and objective of striving for the uplift of rural women in all possible ways and to popularise the concept of mixed farming as a means to get the maximum value per unit of arable land by appropriate extension and research activities.

This aided institution is managed by a registered society, Sri Parasakthi Educational Society functioning under the auspicious of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Board of Tamil Nadu with the Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of Tamil Nadu as ex-officio President. 88 Academic staff and 36 Non Academic staff to the college is functioning successfully.Spacious buildings surrounded by greenwood trees in Courtallam, famous for water falls are an unique feature. The library has now 46,000 volumes and 15 subscribing journals.

Co-oriented programme of Research on Biogas technology under the financial assistance of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi is organising Research Programme at this college; Physical Education/NCC/NSS is compulsory. Bharatha Natyam, Karate and Yoga are taught. This college was started under the University of Madras, came under Madurai Kamaraj University in the year 1966 and now is affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University since 1990. Strength of students studied in the college from 1986-87 to 1996 -1997 are given in *Appendix-11.*[43]

Sri Sarada College for Women

Sri Sarada College for women is a self financed college located amidst idyllic surroundings at Ariyakulam, Sarada Nagar, V.M.Chatram near Tirunelveli was started in 1986 by Sri Sarada Samithi, Salem.When it was started in 1986, this college had only about 60 students on its roll. In 1996 it had grown to the extent of admitting 914 students. The Bachelor's

degree courses were in Economics, Mathematics and Commerce. In the subsequent years, B.Sc. in Physics, Computer Science and Chemistry have been added. Strength of students studied in the college since 1986 are given in *Appendix 12* [44]

Details about the courses started year of affiliation and the no.of students admitted at inception and currently are given below:-

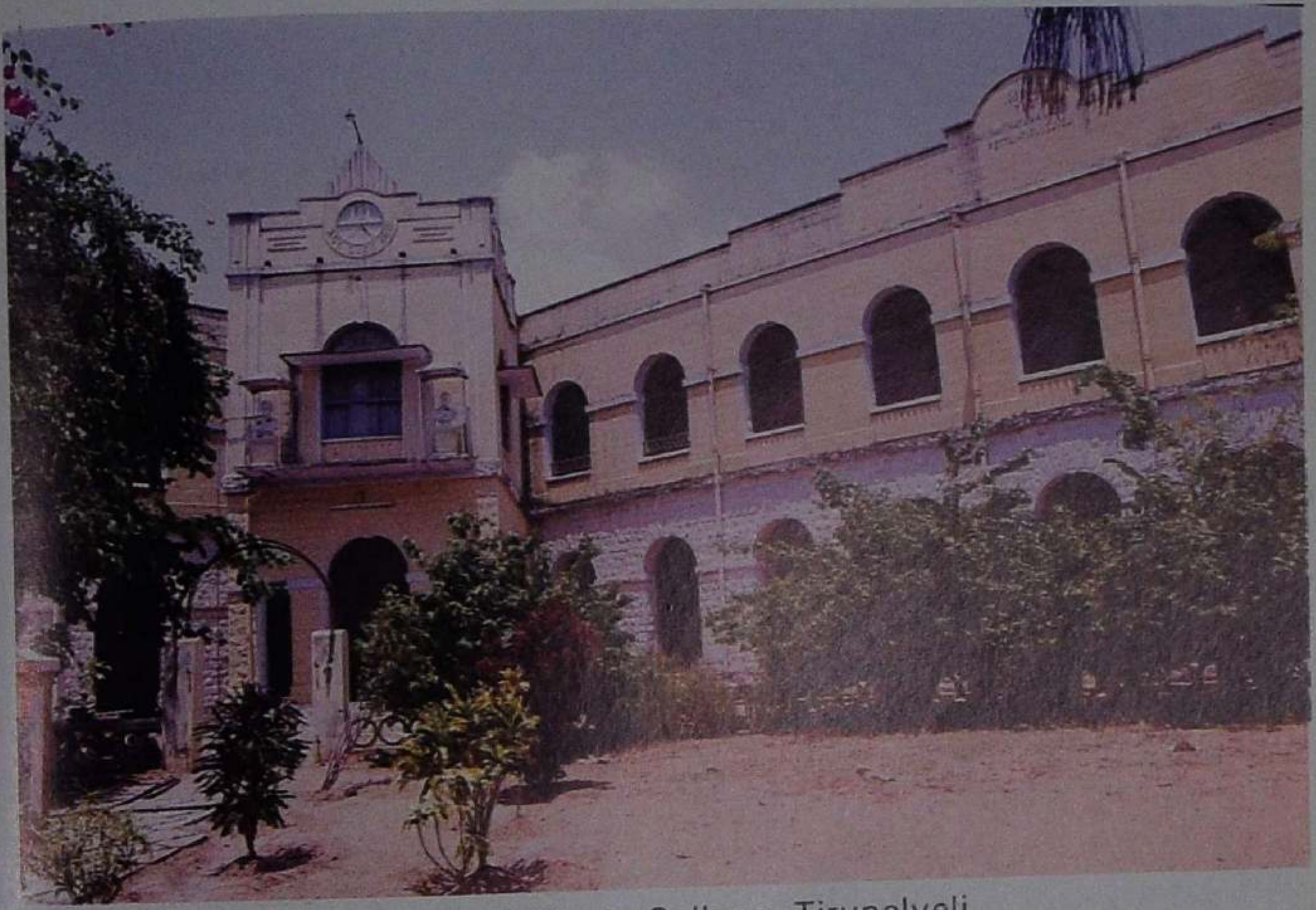
Name of courses	*Year of affiliation*	*Annual intake*	
		At the time of inception	*Current intake.*
B.A.Economics	1986	40	64
B.Com	1986	64	64
B.Sc.Mathemaics	1986	40	44
B.Sc.Physics	1987	24	44
B.Sc.Computer science	1988	24	44
B.Sc.Chemistry	1991	40	44
M.C.A. (Master of Computer Application)	1992	15	20

St.Ignatious College of Education for Women

St. Ignatious College of Education for Women was founded in July 1957. It is affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. The college is under the management of the congregation of the Mission Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. At present the college offers B.Ed. course with English, Special English,Mathematics, Physical Science, Natural Science and History as subjects. The M.Ed.course has been introduced in the college in the academic year 1968-69 with a sanctioned strength of 15. Strength of students in B.Ed. and M.Ed. courses from 1980 to 1993 are given in *Appendix-13.* [45]

St. John's College

St. John's College, as discussed elsewhere was founded by the Church Missionary Society in 1878. To start with, a pre-degree course, leading to the award of a Diploma by the Faculty of Arts by the University of Madras to which the college was affiliated, was offered.The Rev.Schaffter was the first Principal who guided the destinies of the college for 42 years from 1878 to 1920. When the second Principal Rev.Young (1920-1935) took over, he carried out the shifting of the college campus from Tirunelveli to Palayamkottai. Between 1937 and 1946, courses in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Logic were offered under Part-III of the Intermediate Course. The college was upgraded in 1945 and the degree



M.D.T. Hindu College, Tirunelveli

Front view of St. John's College, Palayamkottai

courses in Mathematics and Economics were introduced. In 1955, University courses were recognised with the introduction on the one year pre-University course and three year degree courses. In 1957, B.Sc. courses in Physics and Chemistry were started. In 1959, Botany and in 1961, Zoology degree courses were offered.

From 1966 to 1990, the college remained affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. The B.A. degree course in History and M.Sc. in Mathematics were started in 1967. B.A. English Literature was introduced in 1969. The M.A. degree course in English Literature was introduced in 1971. The M.A.Economics was started in 1979, B.Com. in 1980 and M.Sc, .Botany in 1981. M.Sc.Zoology was introduced in the college in 1986 and M ..Phil. in the same subject in 1988.

Since 1990, St.John's college has been an affiliated college of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. The Institution which has grown into a first grade post-graduate college is being run by the Tirunelveli Dioceson Trust Association, the educational agency of Tirunelveli Diocese of the Church of South India (C.S.I.).

There are units of NCC and NSS in the college. The college maintains two hostel, one for under-graduate men and another for Post-graduate men and women. The college library has a stock of 43892 books. In all, the courses of the college, there are 1231 students taught by 85 teachers.From its very inception the college has aimed at building the total personality of the student, the secular education, the extra-curricular activities and moral instructions contributing to this objective. Statistics showing the number of students studied in the college since 1980 are given in *Appendix-14.*[46]

St.Xavier's College

St. Xavier's College was started in 1923 by the intrepid Jesuit Missionaries from France who were running a school for nearly 50 years in Tirunelveli. The Jesuit trio, the select task force, responsible for the founding of the college were Fathers Mahe, Lebeau and Honore. Their zeal had created a tradition of academic excellence and universal service. Rev.Fathers Consannal, Dhanasamy and Gnanapragasam contributed decisively to the early development of the college. The college is run by the society of St.Francis Xavier, a Body registered under the Societies Registration Act in the year 1920-21.The motto of this college is *Life and Light through Truth.*

The college began to function with just 25 Intermediate students on the rolls and 10 teachers on the faculty. The University of Madras was so impressed by the rapid progress of the college that in 1925, it raised St.Xavier's college to the status of a first grade college and granted affiliation in B.A.Mathematics and History. The strength of the college rose to more than 300 in 1932.

There are two hostels for students within the campus, Britto hostel can accommodate around 250 inmates and Xavier hostel around 350. The college Library has 64,699 volumes in various subjects, 84 periodicals and journals are bought for the benefit of teaching and learning communities. The college possesses a book bank (text books)with lending scheme to enable poor students of the degree classes of the college to obtain text books which they cannot afford to buy .The college runs a Computer centre, the Xavier Institute Computer Centre which caters to the needs of the students of the departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, Commerce, etc., Various courses offered bythe college and their year of introduction are as given in the *Appendix-15.* [47]

F.R.R.C

The Folklore Resource and Research Centre was started in 1987. The centre has been developing projects and activities which bringingout the riches of folk culture embodied in indegenous folk forms. The centre's field activities are largely confined to Tamil Nadu. It brings to focus the values and insights inherent in various folk forms through field study and theoretical research.The findings of research are published in books (in Tamil) and in South Indian Folklorist (in English) which is a biannual journal.The FRRC 'archives' has a sizable body of folkloristic materials in the form of audio and video casettes, photographs, slides, manuscripts and palm leaf manuscripts. Archival holdings are organised and presented in formats accessible to interested persons.The Library here, is holding over 8000 books and 29 research journals regarding folklore, folkloristics, history, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, structuralism, semiotics, religion and communication.

The centre promotes folk arts by reviving and undersigning performing arts. To promote folk art forms, it organise training for interested persons in various folk arts. It supports traditional artists through a service desk. It facilitates the folk artists to avail of the benefit schemes announced by the Government and other agencies.[48]

St. Xavier's college of Education

St.Xavier's Teachers Training college was started in 1950, when there were only five training colleges in the State; all of them in the city of Chennai. At that time it was affiliated to the University of Madras.

Rev.Fr.A.Bonhoure S.J. was the founder and the first Principal of St.Xavier's Training College. In 1966, this college was affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. In 1969, this college started offering M.Ed. degree course. In 1973, the name of the college was changed as St.Xavier's college of Education. The college has a team of eight lecturers, one Physical Education director, one Librarian and one arts and crafts instructor. The intake of the college is being kept at 100. St.Xavier's

St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai

Higher Secondary School is considered to be a model school of the teacher trainees. The strength of students studied in the college from 1980-81 to 1993-94 are given in *Appendix-16.*[49]

Madurai Draviyam Thayumanavar Hindu College

The Madurai Draviyam Thayumanavar(M.D.T) Hindu College, Tirunelveli as it is known popularly owes its existence to an uncomfortable state of feeling brought about by the successful proselytising efforts of the old Palamkottai High school managed by the Church Missionary Society. A meeting of the Principal Hindu inhabitants was called and their deliberations resulted in 1859 in the establishment, on a very small scale, of an *Anglo-Vernacular School* in the town of Tirunelveli. In 1861, it was moved to a site midway between Tirunelveli and Veeraraghavapuram, which till the advent of the railway in 1876, was comparatively unimportant suburb. This oldest Institution in Tirunelveli district was initially started as a second grade college in 1878. Thiru P.S.Sundaram Pillai, who later achieved great fame for his MANONMANIYAM an immortal poetic drama in Tamil, was the first Principal of the College. He served the College as Principal only for a short period. After Prof. P. Sundaram Pillai a line of distinguished Principals served the college which was raised to the first grade in 1924. The name of the college was changed to Madura Diraviyam Thayumanavar Hindu College on the 23 January 1936 on receipt of a magnificent donation of a lakh of rupees from Thiru M.Diraviyam Pillai and Thiru M.Thayumanasamy Pillai, two Philanthropists of Madurai.[50]

The college was shifted to the new campus (Pettai) at the beginning of the academic year 1958-59. It secured further affiliations in B.Sc. degree courses in Chemistry and Zoology majors in 1958 and Physics major in 1961. On the new campus a hostel, an auditorium and a Library were built. Another hostel was added in 1966 to meet the growing need for hostel residence. In 1970, the college secured affiliation in B.Com degree Course.

The year 1971 saw the institution raised to a postgraduate college, when it was granted further affiliation in M.A. Tamil. In the same year, an Evening college offering the Pre-University Course was started. In the subsequent years M.A.(Economics); M.Sc.(Mathematics); M.Com., M.Sc. (Physics); M.Phil. (Tamil) were started. In the year 1988, B.Sc. Course in computer science and in 1990, B.Sc. Course in Physical Education, Health Education and Sports were started.

The college which had been affiliated to the University of Madras till 1967 was an affiliated college in the Madurai Kamaraj University till 1990. From 1990 onwards, M.D.T. Hindu College has become an affiliated college of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. The college at present offers B.A (Economics) in both Tamil and English Medium, B.Sc. in Mathematics,

Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Computer Science, Physical Education and sports; B.Com., M.A. in Tamil and Economics, M.Com; M.Sc. in Mathematics and Physics; M.Phil. Ph.D (Full time and Part time) in Tamil. During the academic year 1993-94, M.D.T. Hindu College had a strength of 1222 students.Statement showing strength of students in the college from 1987 to 1993 is given in *Appendix - 17.*[51]

Tirunelveli Dakshina Mara Nadar Sangam College

Tirunelveli Dakshina Mara Nadar Sangam (TDMNS) professed promotion of education as one of its main objects. For many years it was helping poor students with loan scholarship. It was also giving donations to certain private colleges in the district. And then the Sangam decided to start its own college in the erstwhile Nanguneri taluk, which had till then the unique distinction of being one of the taluks in the district without a college. The result was the opening of the TDMNS college in T.Kallikulam as the site for it construction was donated by the people there.

The approved college, started in July 1971 had just 100 students and 10 teachers. Then it grew steadily. At present, it is fulfilled first grade college affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University with two Post graduate courses (M.Sc. Maths and M.Com), seven under Graduate courses; B.A. Economics and History; B.Com; B.Sc. in Physics, Maths, Chemistry and Botany and a Post- Graduate Diploma Course in Computer Application (PGDCA).

Now, there are about 1092 (male 713, female 379) students studying in the various courses of the college being taught by 54 Faculty members.[52]

Tiruvalluvar College

This college originally known as Valluvar Senthamil college was founded in July 1968 on the bank of the river Tamirabarani at the foot of the Pothigai Mountain, by the Valluvar Senthamil College Educational Society; Pothigai, Papanasam affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University. In June 1969 it was taken over by Kundrakudi Adigalar, Head of the Tiruvannamalai Adheenam Arulneri Educational Trust, a society registered under the Society Registrations Act of 1860. It was oriental college named after the Great Saint Thiruvalluvar, imparting instruction only in Pre-University course (P.U.C). In 1972-73 the college was converted into an Arts college and the Pre-University course offering History, Economics and Advanced Tamil was introduced. In the same year, the college was granted affiliation in B.A.Tamil. In 1973-74 Commerce, Economics and Advanced English courses were added to the existing Pre- University course. The Advanced English was replaced by Mathematics in 1975-76. Strength of students studied in the college from 1980-81 to 1993-94 are given in *Appendix-18.*[53]

Legal Education

In Tirunelveli district a Government Law college was opened on14 October 1996 with an intake of 80 students for three year (Regular) Law course. This college runs at Ponnusamy Pillai Bungalow located on Tiruchendur road, Palayamkottai.[54]

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Tirunelveli Medical College

The Tirunelveli Government Medical College and its teaching hospital are located in an extensive area of about 350 acres of land at High ground, Palayamkottai. It was started in the year 1965, affiliated to the University of Madras, with an admitted strength of 75 students for the academic year 1965-66. However, these students had to undergo their first year study in the local Arts and Science colleges. In July 1966, the first batch of second year MBBS students started attending the classes in the newly constructed Anatomy Block. Other Departments like Pharmacology, Pathology, Microbiology and Social and Preventive Medicine started functioning in the subsequent years and the District Headquarters Hospital was converted into Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital. This college was affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University subsequent to its inception in the year 1967. Since 1988, on the formation of Dr. MGR Medical University it has been affiliated to Medical University.

The college was recognised by the Medical Council of India, New Delhi in 1978. The number of seats for the MBBS Course was increased from 75 to 100 in 1980 and in the same year the State Government accorded sanction for the starting of Post-graduate courses.

The following post graduate degree diploma courses are conducted in the college: M.D.General Medicine-2, M.D.Pathology-1, M.D.Micro Biology-1, M.D.Ortho-2, M.D.Forensic Medicine-1, M.S.General Surgery-2, D.G.O -4, D.Oh.- 4, D. Ortho - 2. Hostel facilities are provided both for men and women students within the campus. The college celebrated its Silver Jubilee in the year 1990.[55]

Government Siddha Medical College

The Government Siddha Medical College originally intended to be started at Courtallam, was started at Palayamkottai on 30 November 1964. This was an affiliated college of the University of Madras till March 1966 and from then on till 1988 it was an affiliate of Madurai Kamaraj University and since March 1989 to Dr. MGR Medical University .

In the year 1964-65, it had a strength of 65 students (Siddha-30, Ayurveda-20 and Unani-15) for the degree course (Bachelor of Indian Medicine). However, adequate number of candidates for admission to the

Ayurveda and Unani branches did not come forward and so the seats allotted to these branches were re-allotted to the Siddha branch itself. And the total capacity of admissions to the Siddha branch was raised to 65 for the year 1964-65, with a stipend of Rs.75/- per student and Rs.125/- per Internee from 30 May 1972. The stipend per Internee has presently been raised to Rs. 1000/- per month.

In 1977-78 Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS) Degree course was introduced (Duration of the course is five years with six months training in House Surgery). The year-wise strength of students from 1978-79 onwards is furnished below:

Year	*No. of students*
1978-79	185
1979-80	196
1980-81	243
1981-82	334
1982-83	424
1983-84	458
1984-85	563
1985-86	490

Three types of courses are conducted at this college. Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery 5-1/2 years, Maruthuvam and Gunapadam postgraduate courses,(M.D) three years and D.Pharmacy course, two year course with a capacity of 50 students per year. The post-graduate departments are connected with Research section equipped with Pharmacology and Bio-Chemistry laboratories. Rare herbs are being cultivated in protected glass houses. The twelve departments that function in this college are Udal Koorugal, Udal Thathuvam, Gunapadam, Noi Nadal , Nanju Nool Maruthuvam, Aruvai Maruthuvam, Sool Maruthuvam, Balar Maruthuvam, Sirappu Maruthuvam, Pharmacology and Bio-Chemistry. Separate hostels for men and women students of the college, situated close to this college , cater to the students.[56]

Rajas Dental College

Rajas Dental College started in the year 1987 is recognised by Dental Council of India and affiliated to the Tamilnadu Dr. MGR Medical University. This College is attached to Rajas General and Dental Hospital at Vadakkankulam. This self-financing college is run by Selvam Educational and Charitable Trust. It is a co-educational institution that offer B.D.S.

degree course. The total intake is 60 students per year. The number of students admitted in B.D.S.course since inception is given in *Appendix-19.*[57]

The self-financing para-medical institutions in the district are :

1. Antartica College of Pharmacy, Tirunelveli
2. S.A. Raja College of Pharmacy, Vadakkankulam
3. St. Mary's College of Pharmacy, Tenkasi
4. Sattanathan-Karayalar College of Pharmacy, Tenkasi
5. Pearls Peace Medical Mission, Pettai
6. Fathima College of Pharmacy, Kadayanallur.

Lab Technician / Nursing

Sri Ramachandra Naidu Telugu (minorities) Educational & Charitable trust at Sankarankoil offers Lab Technician course and Diploma in Nursing; St.Mary's School of Nursing at Tenkasi offers Diploma in Nursing and Tamil Nadu Tourism Religious and Language Minority Institute of Medical Science at Pettai offers Diploma in Nursing.[58]

Fathima College of Pharmacy

Fathima College of Pharmacy was started by the Mohideen Batcha Educational trust on a self-financing basis in 1995. The college has been affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University. This co-educational college offers four year B.Pharmacy course. The college has a separate hostel for both boys and girls.[59]

Raja's Pharmacy College

Raja's Pharmacy College founded in 1984, runs B.Pharmacy Degree course and two year D.Pharmacy course. It is affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University. It provides separate hostel facilities for both boys and girls.[59(a)]

Technical Education

The history of technical education in the district can be traced back to 1844 when Mrs. Caldwell, wife of Bishop Caldwell, started a school for girls to teach lace making at Idyangudi. But, the first technical school in the district was opened in 1887 by the Tirunelveli Municipality. It was located at the Pennington Market and was intended to give instruction in carpentry, blacksmithy and rattan work. It attracted very small attendance and was wound up four years later in 1891. Though, the District Board, proposed to open a *Central Industrial Instruction* in 1889, it was finally opened near Tirunelveli Junction in 1895 *Board Technical Institute.* It contained the Industrial Institution and the *Normal School.* From the

beginning, the progress of the school was not satisfactory and it was closed down by the Government in 1911.[60]

The Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in Tamil Nadu were, initially, under the Administrative control of the Directorate of Public Instruction and Directorate of Industries and Commerce respectively. The State Standing Advisory Board of Technical Education suggested reorganising the administration of technical education and recommended *inter-alia,* that technical education should be administered by a separate Department, placed under a Director of Technical Education with the status of the Head of a Department and vested with powers necessary to give it a shape and size to raise its quality and standard to meet the needs of modern times. Accepting the suggestion, the Government of Tamil Nadu set up a State Board of Technical Education and Training and a separate Directorate of Technical Education with effect from 1st October 1957. The Directorate of Technical Education has taken over the administration of both engineering colleges and polytechnics since then.[61]

Government College of Engineering

The Government College of Engineering, was started in October 1981 to fulfill the needs of the people of the Southern region. At first, the College was functioning in a bungalow near Tirunelveli Medical College since new buildings were under construction. Then in 1984 the College started to function in the new buildings in the new campus with an extent of 25 hectares. . The current location is about 8 km. from Tirunelveli junction on the Tirunelveli-Trivandrum Highway

At its inception, the College admitted students for three under-graduate branches, viz., Civil , Electronics and Communication and Mechanical Engineering. Electrical and Electronics Engineering was introduced during 1986-87.The Computer Science and Engineering was added in the year 1989-90. The post-graduate course of Computer science and Engineering was introduced in 1994-95.Statement showing the number of students admitted in various branches since 1982 are given in *Appendix-20.*[62]

The Indian Engineering College

The Indian Engineering College was started by Selvam Educational Charitable Trust, a self-financing agency in 1984. The College has been affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. It offers undergraduate degree courses in the following subjects.[63]

Civil Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Electronics and Communication Engineering

Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai

Government Engineering College, Tirunelveli

Electrical and Electronics Engineering and

Computer Science and Engineering.

It is a co-educational institution and the total intake of the college is 270.

Sankar Institute of Polytechnic

This is the first polytechnic started in the district in 1958. It is an aided institution run by the India Cements Ltd; It offers the following diploma courses.

Civil Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Electronics and Communication Engineering

Computer Technology

Electrical and Electronics Engineering and

Post Diploma in Computer Application.

Self Financing polytechnics

There are six self financing polytechnics in the district. They are:[64]

1. Pasumpon Nethaji Polytechnic, Melaneelithanallur
2. S.A.Raja Polytechnic, Alaganeri
3. Gomathi Ambal Polytechnic, Kallidaikurichi
4. Arulmigu Senthilandavar Polytechnic, Tenkasi
5. M.S.P.Velayutha Nadar Lakshmithai Ammal Polytechnic, Pavoor-Chatram.
6. Institute of Road Transport Polytechnic, Konganthanparai.

A short profile on each of the Polytechnics is given in *Appendix -21.*

Industrial Training Institute (ITI)

The Industrial Training Institute offers courses to train in Fitter, Welder, Diesel Mechanic, Moulder, Electrician, Wiremen, Turner etc. Of the 28 ITIs in the district, four are run by Government, 16 are private and the rest are run by private agencies. Short sketches of ITIs in the district showing location, nature of training offered, year of establishment and sanctioned strength are given in *Appendix-22.*[65]

Institutes for Stenography and Typewriting

In Tirunelveli district, there are 131 Institutes for Stenography and Typewriting in various taluks. The Director of Technical Education, grants recognition to the Institutes which comply with the rules and regulations

prescribed by the Government. The typewriting and stenography examinations are conducted by the Director of Technical Education.[66]

Literacy

The census reports are the benchmark sources to study about the literacy of a district. As per 1991 census, the Yardstick used in determining the literacy level is the ability to read and write with understanding in any language. A person who can merely read but cannot write is, however, not a literate. As mentioned earlier, the literacy level was determined only to those aged seven years and above, as against five years and above in the earlier census. The population of less than seven years of age have been treated as illiterates in the 1991 Census.[67] The details of the literate persons in the district as per the census Hand Books of 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991 are given below: [68]

	Total population		*Literate persons*	
Year	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
1951	49,026	51,878	15,690	4,557
1961	5,73,424	6,04,280	2,48,017	99,795
1971	9,10,027	9,42,929	5,09,294	2,89,779
1981	10,91,018	11,22,152	6,75,755	4,29,355
1991	12,29,902	12,71,930	8,19,183	6,00,578

Adult Literacy

Educating the children of school going age seems to be the objective of the literacy mission of the Government. The literacy mission aiming at cent per cent literacy would be fulfilled only when every one gets a chance to learn atleast the three . The Government for this purpose, devised various means for the education of the illiterate adults. It was in the year 1948 that the Adult Literacy schools were opened throughout the district. The modified scheme of Adult Education introduced in the district during 1954-55, confines Adult Education efforts to the National Extension Service and Community Development programmes. Admission to the course are being restricted to the age group of 8-18. The teachers trained in adult literacy methods were made in charge of Adult literacy schools in the districts. To these schools newspapers, and journals were supplied at Government costs, not exceeding Rs.44 per annum. To add these copies of folders, booklets and books were published by the department of Public Instructions. In 1962-63, there were 73 Adult Education schools in the district having 1396 boys and 270 girls.

Adult Education

Adult Education Programme was started in 1979-80 in the district in a big way and till the end of 1987, about 2,20,522 adults were covered through 6,406 camps were conducted over a period of these years. Blockwise distribution of adults who were made literate and number of camps conducted are shown in the *Appendix - 23* [69]

Total Literacy campaign (Arivoli Iyakkam)

Tirunelveli District has the dubious distinction of being community hypersensitive with social divide, caste ridden etc. The district has been of late developed as in to thorn to the administrators due to communal clash and other forms of criminal activities. Contrary to the popular belief that the district has a large number of literate people than many other districts in the State; the district literates average of 56.53 per cent was lower than the State average of 63.72 per cent when the Arivoli Iyakkam was introduced. Against this not very encouraging background to Arivoli Iyakkam was launched on 21 November 1991.

Scores of men and women offered their services to act as a volunteers. Many innocent rural people surged forward to learn the three Rs.(reading, writing and arithmatics). Nearly 50,000 volunteers are participated on 9 February 1992, when a survey was conducted.The survey reveals that there were 2,57,684 illiterate persons in the age group of 15-35 in the district. Of the 257684 illiterate persons 93,273 were males and 1,64,411 were females. The I Primer was introduced on 16 July 1992 and II Primer and III Primer was introduced on 16 July 1992 and 1 December 1992 respectively. Nearly 2,57,684 learners and 40,000 volunteers were involved in the learning and teaching process.

The total fund allocated by the Government to launch the campaigns in the district is Rs.1.82 crores. While the share of the National Literacy Mission was Rs.1.21 crores, the State share was Rs.61 lakhs which gave benefit to 2.80 lakh illiterates. This programme covered 19 blocks, eight municipalities, 473 panchayats and 2835 village panchayats in the district.[70]

The Library movement

The Tirunelveli Public Library Society was founded in 1898,out of the surplus funds collected in connection with the visit to this district of A.E.Havelock, the then Governor of Madras. The object of the Society was to maintain the Tirunelveli Public Library which was started at the time and occasionally to arrange for lectures on Literary and Scientific subjects. In 1933, the scope of the Society's work was widened. It was reorganised and brought into line with the Madras Library Association and the Library Movement. In addition to running its own Library, it took up the work of spreading the Library movement in the district. Starting of network

of inter-dependent libraries and reading rooms in the villages, a co-ordinating the activities of the village centres and to serve as a model for village libraries, are its prime objectives.[71]

A District Library conference was held in February, 1934 to focus public attention on the spread of the Library Movement. The managements of the several libraries in the district and the representatives of local bodies who were interested in rural uplift and mass education were brought together to devise the ways and means of spreading the movement. As a first step the Managing Committee was strengthened by including the District Collector and the District Judge . It was further decided to have a building for the library since it functioned in a rented building. In 1935 the Government granted to the Society site in Palayamkottai for the building. A sum of Rs.3000/was collected from public subscriptions for the cause of constructions. Then came generous and timely donation of Rs.5000/- from Thiru Chattanatha Karayalar, a Member of the Legislative Council of Sengottah. The building which consists of a hall 50 square feet with a verandah of 12 feet on all sides were completed in November 1936 and named *The Subramania Karayalar Public Library Hall* in memory of the father of generous donor. The building was opened on 16 November 1936 by H.E. Lord Erskine, G.C.I.E. the then Governor of Madras.

The Tirunelveli Public Library

Attention was first focused on the organisation of the Public Library on modern lines. The use of the Library was, till June, 1933 open only to members of the society; and as a first step in the reorganisation of the library on modern lines it was converted into free library open to the Public. The books were classified according to the Colon scheme. The introduction of Home Delivery scheme within the municipal limits of Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai extended its usefulness. The Library had been affiliated as a borrowing member of the Connemara Public Library, Chennai.

The District Central Library

The District Central Library is situated in a locality where many schools, colleges and Government offices are located. Beginning its functions in a rented building at the Appasamy premises on May 4, 1952, it was shifted to Thiru Subramania Karayalar building on 1st February 1968 constructed by the Tirunelveli Library Association with the growth of the Library demand for space also grew causing serious problem. This caused the construction of a new two storey building in the same premises at a cost of Rs.19/- lakh, and was inaugurated on 20 March 1993. The Library is serving the interest of book lovers in Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli and Melapalayam areas. The working hours are from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. A twelve hour uninterrupted working schedule is convenient for rendering

District Science Centre, Tirunelveli

service to the public. The library has reading section, reference section, new books accession section, consulting section, women and children section, binding section, T.V.section and lending section .

On the Saturday of every month new books are introduced and special lectures or debates are organised. Every year from 14 to 20 November, the National library week is observed in a grand scale. Subscribers,readers, and women and children participate in the function.This library makes every attempts to equip with books, furnitures and enrolling more members; it runs four part time libraries of which one is for exclusive use of prisoners, purchasing books etc., from the interest accrued through the patronage and arranging necessary propaganda. The Tirunelveli District Local Library Authority formed on 18 September 1950, situates near banks of the river Tamiraparani. Between 1954 and 1997, 117 branch libraries were opened. They are listed in *Appendix-24.*[72]

District Science Centre

The District Science Centre, Tirunelveli is unique institution situated on the banks of Tamiraparani. Popularising science, inculcating the spirit of enquiry fostering creative talents and infusing scientific temper in life, are its objectives. This autonomous body is a unit of the National council of Science Museums,attached to the Department of Culture , Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) Government of India. This is one among the 124 centres in the country. It was thrown open by the then Union Minister of H.R.D. P.V.Narasimharao on February 1987.[73]

The centre has two permanent galleries on ocean, a semi permanent gallery on popular science and a six acre science park where numerous exhibits help create awareness of scientific development among the common people. The centre which conducts a lot of educational programmes, was visited between April 1993 and March 1994, by record number of 6.11 lakh people. A good collection of films and video cassettes on nature, wildlife computers etc.given face lift to the centres. It organises video and planatorium shows (a planatorium shows the night sky during day time). The centre gives heart-beat demonstration at the animatorium, has a sky observatory to view heavenly bodies through telescopes and science demonstration and lectures on everything from electronics to salts. Kits are also lent to schools for effective classroom communication. The programmes of the centre cater almost to all sections of visitors. Teacher training programmes, mainly to help educators make their own teaching aids, creative ability courses in electronics, astronomy, chemistry, nature studies etc. , for students and community development programmes for unemployed youth are organised in the centres. Opportunities to young scientists are provided to prove their mettle through several programmes. For exchange of ideas the centre arranges lectures and seminars at different levels.[74]

APPENDIX-1

Black wise list of Primary and Middle School

-Panchayat Union Primary school in **Alangulam Union** are functioning at Agaram, Alangulam, Ayyanarkulam, Chettikurichi, Endaloor, Karayalanoor, Karuppinankulam, K.Shanmugapuram, Maranthai, Mayamankurichi, K.Kallathikulam, Nalankurichi, Nachiyarpuram, Navaneethakrishnapuram Uchipothai, Velayauthapuram,North Kavalakurichi, Nochikulam, Kannadikulam, Maviliyoothu, Seevalasamudram, Annamalipudur, Muthannalpuram, B.Kallathikulam, Uthumalai, Shanmugapuram, Thattaparai, Seevalapuram, Kurunjakulam, Maruthalpuram, Thangammalpuram and Amuthapuram. The Middle schools are at Veeranam, Balapathiramapuram and Nettur.

In **Ambasamudram** area the Primary School are located at Kovilkulam, Uppuvaniamuthur, Papanasam Upper Dam, Mudapalam, Vilancheri, Papanasam Project, Solaipuram,Ayyanarkulam, pothigai Adi,Andavan Kudiyiruppu, 10th Ward Ambasamudram, Urkadu, Ayan Singampatti, Manimuthar,Kodarankulam, Vairavikulam, Kahumancheri, There are middle schools at Vickramasingapuram, Mannarkoil, Servalar, Gellanguli and Ambasamudram.

The Panchayat Union Primary schools in **Cheranmahadevi** functioning at Gopalasamudram, Piranjeri, Melacheval, Meladesamanickam, Melaupporani, Sadayappapuram, Pathamadai, Cheranmahadevi, Ammanathankoil, Cheranmahadevi, Chokkalingapuram, Melamanallur, Kuniyoor, Veeravanallur, Pudur, Alagappapuram, Poodapuram, Mathudayarkulam, Malayankulam, Uluppadiparai,South Kallidaikurichi, Kallidaikurichi, 12th ward Kallidaikurichi, Kattumannarkoil, Uluppadiparai (south) and Kallidaikurichi. There are middle schools that functions here at Pathamadai, Veeravanallur and Pottal.

In **Kadayam** area, the Panchayat Union Primary Schools, that function are at Sivagnanapuram, Alagappapuram, Manchupulicheneri, Thattampatti, Meenakshipuram, Vagaikulam, Papankulam, Mylappapuram, Pattatham. Pottalputhur, Patharanpillaikudiyirupu, Alwarkurichi, Thiruthu, Senganur, Chettikulam, Manthiyoor, Nalankattalai, Kalyanipuram, Keelakadayam, Ravanasamudram, Kattanpatti, Mudaliarpatti, Kavoor, Therkumadathur, lakshmiyur, Vadamalaipatti, Ravuthaperi, Chokkanathanpatti, Kanithalingapuram, Chekkadiyoor, Manalkatanur, Alagammalpuram.

In **Kadayanallur**, the Panchayat Union Primary schools are at Bala Arunachalapuram, Chidambaraperi, Valasai, Kammapacheri, Avudayalpuram, Anaikulam, Subbiahpuram,Ayyapuram, Melakadayanallur. Kadayanallur has a Municipal Primary school at Melakadayanallur, Government Adi Dravida welfare Primary school at Valasai and three

Panchayat Union middle school at Panniahpuram, Kulanyaneri and Sundaresapuram and a Municipal Middle school at Pettai, Melakadayanallur.

The Panchayat Union Primary schools that function in **Kalakad** area are at Kadamboduvalvu, Kovilammalpuram, Eruvadi, (West) Soorangudi, Kannaneri, Kadamboduvalvu, Nadarkudiyiruppu, Thirukkurungudi, Thalavaipuram, SoorangudiNadarkudiyiruppu, Pallikondankudiyiruppu, Eruvadi North, Eruvadi South, Rajapudur, Devanallur, Keelakaruvelankulam, Naduvakulam, Padlayarkulam, Pethania, Puthukulam, Subramaniapuram, Apparkulam, Vadakarai, Padmaneri, The area has one Panchayat Union Middle school, one Government Primary school and one Government Adi dravidar Welfare Primary School at Sivashanmugapuram.

In **Keelapavoor**, the Panchayat Union Primary schools are located at Athiyuthu, Kalingapatti, Keelapavoor, Kottaiyur, Melapavoor (West) Melapavoor Ramanoor, Sadayappapuram, Samuthirapuram, Thayarthopu, Thiruvenkadu, V.K.Pudur, Sivalingapuram, Kamarajanagar, Subramaniapuram, Alagapuri Papanasapuram, Elangapuripattinam, Mahilvannanathapuram, Maruthadiyoor, Chellathayarpuram, Ayothyapuripattinam, Karisalaoor, Avudaiyanoor, Rayappanadanoor, Aryappapuram, Thiravinagar, Kondalkoor, Gurusamipuram, Vettaikarankulam, Ramachandrapattinam, Thirumalapuram, Pullukatuvalasai, Poolankulam, and Vinaitheerthanadarpatti, and the middle schools are located at Ayankurimbalaperi, Sivagurunathapuram, Vellakal and Poobalasamudram.

In **Kuruvikulam**, the Panchayat Union Primary schools are found at Alagapuri, Alamanaickarpatti, Araikachipatti, Avaranthai, A.V.Udayapuram, Andipatti, Chitharampatti, Chinnavagaikulam, Ayyaneri, Ganapathipatti, Ilayarasanendal, Kudanpatti, Kalingapatti, Kasiilingapuram, Kommankulam, Kulasekarankottai, Kodapparai, Karpadam, Keelanalandula, Lakshmiamalpuram, Maruthankinar, Melamarothny, Meenakshipuram, Muthureddipatti, Mathurapuri, Naickarpatti, Naduvapatti, Narasimhapuram, Odaikaraipatti, Pudu Appaneri, palaya Appaneri, Palancottai, Ramarajapuram, Rayappapuram, Samsigapuram, Sundarasapuram, Sevalkulam, Sambakulam, Thopureddipatti, Thiruvengadam, Kulasekaraperi, Sri Rengarajapuram, Veppankulam, and the Middle schools are at Kurunjankulam, Avvoipulipatti, Melanalandula, Pullaiyarnatham, Varaganaoor, Umaithalaivanpatti and Perunkottur.

The **Manur** Panchayat Union has Primary schools at Melakallur, Kodaganallur, Kiramangalam, Palavoor, Kondanagaram, Karungadu, Mylapapuram, Thiruppanikarisalkulam, Seethaparpanallur, Kangayankulam, Muthankulam, Thulukkarkulam, Gandhinagar, Vaduganpatti, Karuvanallur, Vettuvankulam, Ettankulam, Kalakudi, Madavakurichi, Mottaiyanpatcheri, Therkkupatty, Balapathirapuram, Valveechu Rashina, Chettikurichi,

Subbiahpuram, Maruthappapuram,Seighurayanpudur, Chithankudiyiruppu, Gangaikondan, Nadupillayarkulam, Venkatachalapuram, Punganpacheri, Papankulam, Vadakkiruppu, Kupanapuram, Rashtha, Gangaikondan, Keelathenkalam, Thenkalmpudur, Pallicottai, Palamadai, Kalkurichi, Kuppakurichi,Manur, Karikkathoppu, Thirumalapuram, Karisalkulam, Kurichikulam, Ukkirankottai, Pallamadai, Thullukkapalli, Nallanneluram, and Middle schools in Nadukallur ,Narasinganallur,Suthamalli, Pathinalamperi, Thalayuthu, Vadakuselianallur,Gandhieeswaranpudur, Ithikulam, Chithampacheri, Keelaselianalur, Piranjeri, Neetupacheri, Paruthikulam, Melapillaiyarkulam.

The **Melaneelithanallur** Union has Primary schools at the following places,Narayanapuram, Karuthanoor, Ilanthaikulam, K.Maruthappapuram, Navaneethakrishnapuram, Shunmuganallur, Kurukkalpatti, Thonukal, Venkatachalapuram, Sayamalai, Madathupatti, South Poolangulam, North Poolangulam, Ramayanpatti, Vannikonendal Koovachipatti, Sundankurichi, Renganathapuram, Vellalangulam, Andarkulam, Echantha, Ponnagaram, Sakkaraikulam, Panavadalichatram, Nochikulam, T.Subbiapuram, Therku Achampati, Vellappaneri, Vadakku Puliyampatti and the Middle schools at Panneruthu, Melaneelithanallur, Thevarkulam, K.Reddiarpatti, Thiumalapuram, Periakovilankulam, Sillikulam, Chinnakovilankulam, Soorangudi, Arunachalapuram, Pudugramam Pattadaikatti, Naduvakurichi, Ventrilingapuram, Chokkalingapuram, Vallaramapuram, Poovalingapuram, Valangaipulisamudram, Duraisamipuram,Karaikandarkulam, pandiapuram, Kulasekaramangalam.

The **Nanguneri** Panchayat Union area has Primary schools at Thennimalai, Kallathi, Moolakkaraipatti, Nagalkulam, Chinnamoolakkaraipatti, Thuthikulam, Anaikarai, Andarkulam, Ariakulam, Ayarkulam, Iruthankulam, Kadankulam, Kathanadaippu, Mayaneri, Meenachinathapuram, Mudalaikulam, Munanjipatti, North Kaluvoor, Pathaickam, pattarpuram, Poolam, Ramaneri, Rengasamudram, Rettarkulam, South Pathiniparai, South Vijayanarayanam,, Srivarmangaipuram, Thenkaraicolony, Thirumalapuram, Thottakudi, Thoranakurichi, Vadivalpuram, Vepankulam, Natchankulam, Veerankulam, Pattapillaipuram, Pillayarkulam, Unnankulam, Kanmayankudiyiruppu, Marugalkurichi, Manjankulam, Malayankudi, Nallankulam, Thalapathisamudram, Thalapathisamudram (East) Thalapathisamudram (colony), Singaneri, Rajagopalapuram, Shunmugapuram, Mudalaikulam, Nadarkudiyiruppu, Veppankulam, (Parappadi) Elangalcheri, Parpanathapuram, Nagalkulam Ulvai, Papankulam, Krishnanpudur, Kadanbankulam, and Middle schools at Nanguneri, Shenbagaramanallur, Chinthamani, Kariyandi, Venkatrayapuram, Puthukulam, Therku Venkatanathapuram, Koorttankulam.

In **Palayamkottai** Panchayat Union rural area, the Primary schools are located at Keelathidiyoor, Pookuli, Elayamuthur, Sengulam, Perinbapuram, Munnirpallam, Ponnakudi, Mallakulam, Veeralaperumselvi, Reddiarpatty, Itteri, Thamaraisaelvi,Alangulam, Kodikulam, Muthoor, Rajagopalapuram, Kuthukal, Nochikulam, Reddiarpatti, V.M.Chatram, Piranthankulam, Venkagteswarapuram, Paraikulam, Athimedu, Alanguneri, Avanaperi, Kammalankulam, Keelapattam, Kommandanokor, Santhaipetti, Chatamkudiyiruppu (East), Sivalaperi, Thatchanallur, Thathanoothu, Nochikulam, Kansapuram, Pandarakulam, Padasalai, Pirankulam, Maruthoor, Melanatham, Melathiruvenkatanathapuram, Vagaikulam, Vilagam, Vellakoil Ward-I, Vellekoil ward-II and one Government Adi dravida welfare primary school at Munneerpallam. The area has three Middle schools on each at Chatramkudiyiruppu West, Naduvakurichi and Urudiyarkudiyiruppu.

In **Palayamkottai urban** area, there is Municipal Old Primary Schools at Vannarpettai, Kokirakulam, Kurunthudayapuram and Vadukkupadai- and Municipal Nethaji Primary School at Kamaraj Nagar, A.R.Line Primary School at Palayamkottai; four Municipal Primary schools at Perumalpuram, Kurichi, Karungulam; Safaca Primary School and Therkku Mohideen Jamath Primary school both are located at Melapalayam and Middle schools at Perumal Sannadhi and Manakavalapillai Hospital street and Municipal New Middle school at Vannarapettai and Quide Millath Middle school at Melapalayam.

The **Pappakudi** Panchayat Union has Primary schools at V.Ariyanayagipuram, V.Ilayankulam, Athaanallur, Seshayapuram, Manopavanallur, Thiruppudaimaruthur, Maruthanputhur, Kaliyankulam, Kathappapuram, Kallangulam, Mukkudal, Thenthirupuvanam, Pappakudi, P.Ilandaikulam Kumarasamipuram, Valuthoor, Pothukudi, Anaithandavarpatti, Kasinathapuram, Thalaisubramaniapuram, Melakuthapanyan, Arasankulam,

Primary schools in **Radhapuram** Union are functioning in Radhapuram, Samugarengapuram, (G) Pettaikulam, Perungulam, Singarathoppu, Shanmugapuram, Karambadu, Apuvilai, Kannakulam Pappankulam, Kumbikulam, (South) Vadivammanpatti, Duraikudiyiruppu, Eleyanainarkulam, Pannayarkulam, Kalvillai, Parkaneri, Athukurichi, Thanjapuram, Snaganapuram, Kunjanvilai, Thottavillai, Kalikumarapuram, Pulimangalam, Vallanvilai, Mahadevankulam and the Middle schools are at Kasthurengapuram, Kumarapuram, Seelathikulam and Vijayapatti.

The **Sankarankoil** Panchayat Union has Primary Schools at Anaiyoor, Veerasigamani, Velayuthapuram, Vepankulam, Venkatachalapuram, Sivalingapuram, Therkupudur, Vadakkupudur, Vayalimitta, Veeriruppu, Sankaralingapuram, Senthatti, Subbulapuram, Reddiapatti, Perumalpatti,

Poigaimedu, Achampatti, Alagunachiapuram, Alangulam, Irumangaulam, Karivalamvandanallur ward-I, Karivalamvandanallur ward 8, Kandigaiperi, Kothainachiarpuram, Karisalkulam, Kuvalaikanni, Keelavayali, Kurippankulam, Nainapuram, Nedunkulam, Meenakshipuram, Melavayali, Muthusamipuram, Panchakulam, Periyoor, Puliampatti, Parakulam, Periasamipuram, Ilavankulam and Middle schools at Manaloor, Thiruvettanallur and Madathupatti. In Sankarankoil, the Municipality runs Primary schools at Kalaignar salai, Indiranagar, Gandhinagar, Pattathur and Shenbagapuram, and Middle schools at Krishnasami Nagar, North Car street and North Car street (East).

In **Shencottai** Panchayat Union, the Primary schools are located at Achanpudur, Agarakattu, Shencottai (Ariyanallur), Ayikudi, Balamarthandapuram, Katcheri Compound Shencottai, Elathur, Kambli, Karkudi, Kattalaikudiyiruppu. Kesavapuram, Kilangadu, Mattuchinnanpoigai, Natarajapuram, Poolangudiyiruppu, Puthur, Sambavar Vadakarai Melur, Sambavar Vadakarai Keelur, Sambavar Vadakarai Central, Seevanallur, Shencottai, Thavanai, Thiruvettiyur, Parvathiapuram, Mekkarai, Balasubramaniapuram, Therkkumedu, Ananthapuram and a Middle school is located at Mela Shencottai.

The **Tenkasi** Panchayat Union has Elementary schools at Kandaswamipuram, Keelapattakurichi, Muthalali Kudiyiruppu, Ayyapuram, Vadakarai, Sundarapandiapuram, Angarayankulam, Kanakkapillivalasai, Thiruchittambalam, Kasimajarpuram, Subramaniapuram, Annanagar, Vadakarai, Alagappapuram, Vallam, Panpoli, T.Meenakshipuram, and Municipal Primary schools at Tenkasi, 9th ward, Tenkasi 13th ward, Tenkasi and in Courtalam Township.The Municipality runs a Middle school in the 7th Ward in Tenkasi and the Panchayat Union runs three at Melagaram, Verampudur, Ayyapuram and Karisalkudiyiruppu.

In **Tirunelveli urban** area, Municipal Panchayat Union schools are located at Malayalamedu, Sivankoil Ward, Pettai, M.N.P.Ward Pettai, Rahumanpettai, Tirunelveli and Palayapettai, Tirunelveli-4, Tirunelveli town (Venugopal Primary school) Tirunelveli-6, Sambanthar Ward, Tirunelveli, Lalugapuram, Kallanmai, Pathapathu, Tirunelveli town, Tirunelveli-6 (Bharathiar Municipal School), Sripuram, Kailasanathar Ward, Tirunelveli, Udayarpatti, Tirunelveli (Ranganatham school) and the Corporation runs Primary school at Mela Veeraraghavapuram. The Municipal Middle schools are at run in C.N.Village, Mela Veeraraghavapuram and Sindupoondurai.

The **Valliyoor** Panchayat Union runs Primary schools at Valliyoor, Kesavaneri, Nambiyanvilai, Alaganeri, Pambangulam, Soundaralingapuram, Palavoor, K.C.Palavoor, Periyakulam, Kumaraputhukudieruppu, Adangarkulam, Marankulam, Achiyoor, Kannallur, Villavanamputhur, Vaithialingapuram, Puthukudiyiruppu, Ottamarankudieruppu, Chembadu,

Kothanulam, Chettikulam, Puthumanai, Ponnarkulam. It runs Middle schools at Mupitathi Ammankolil street, Valliyoor, Thulukkarpatti and Koliangulam.

The **Vasudevanallur** Panchayat Union has Primary schools at Vadakkuchatram, Meenakshipuram, A.Subramaniapuram, Senthatiapuram (R.S.K.Pandian School), Koodampatti, Ammankulam, Ramachandrapuram, Mullikulam, Shanmuganathapuram, Pattakurichi, Kudalur, Nelkattumseval, V.Andarkulam, Ullar, Saravanapuram, Chinthamanipudur, Subramaniapuram, Vasudevanallur, Thirumalapuram, Kumarapuram, and it has Middle schools at Sivagiri, Aagaram, Vasudevanallur and Malaiyadikurichi.

The following are the list of aided schools in the district **(Panchayat Union wise)**:

Alangulam Block: TDTA Primary schools at Achankutram, Keelakalangal, Kurichampatti, Veeranam, Karumpuliyoothu, Keelapattamudaiyarpuram, Nallur, Peermohamadpuram, Mariathaipuram, Melakalangal, Vadiyur, Irathamudaiyarkulam, Kidarakulam, lakshmipuram, Maranthai, Mayamankurichi,Sivalarkulam, K.Navaneethapuram, Nettur, Sambankulam, A.Maruthappapuram, Rukmaniammalpuram, Kalankaneri, Vennilingapuram, Kaduvetti, Arunachalapuram, Uthamalai, Reddiyarpatti, Gnanaguru Vidyasalai, Venkateswarapuram, David Primary school, Aravankudiyiruppu, Aruljothi Primary School, Kurippankulam; Hindu Primary schools, Kurtuvankottai; Annai Saradhamani Primary school, Alangulam. The middle schools were TDTA Middle schools at Parankuntrapuram, Karuvanthasalai seri and Alangulam. C.M.S.Arunlothiya Middle school, Nalur, Sri Vaidalingaswami Middle school, Aladipatti; Harijan Middle school, Keelakalangal; Hindu Middle school, Thuthikulam; Muslim Middle school, Veeranam; Sri Shanmuga Middle schol, Melamaruthappapuram, Roman Catholic Middle school, Uthumalai; A.V.M.Middle school, Uthumalai, Sri Mahalingam Middle school, Marukkalangulam, Hindu Middle school, Kuruvankottai, Harijan Middle school, Kavalakurichi and Harijan Middle school, Kangananinar.

In **Ambasamudram block**:TDTA primary school, Ambasamudram, Brahmadesam, XIII Ward - Vickramasingapuram, South Pappankulam, V.K.Puram and Sivanthipuram, Gopalan Primary school, Arumuganeri, Sri Budhar Primary school, Gowdhamapuri; Hindu Primary school, Brahadesam; Saraswathi Isac primary school, Ashkeeper tope; R.C.Primary school, Vadamalaisamudram; St.Joseph's primary school, Vikramasingapuram; National Primary School, Erikalparai; Perumal Thevar Memorial Primary school, Kakkanalur; Sri Raman Hindu primary school, Kattakivalaipatty, Nadar Union Primary school, Mudaliarpatty, Vivekananthar Primary school, Vellanguli; Aided Muslim Committee Primary school, Vickramasingapuram; Little Flower Primary school, Vickramansingapuram; PLWA Primary school,

Vickramasingapuram; St.Mary's Primary school, Vickramasingapuram; B.B.T.C.Primary schools at V.K.Puram, Kakkachi; Kuthiraivetti; Manjolai and Wothu; Hindu Primary school, Ambasamudram; Sengunthar Primary school, Ambasamudram; Sivasubramania Primary school, Ambasamudram; Hindu Primary School, Aladiyur; Gandhi Primary school, Chettimedu; Murugadasa Primary school, Erammalpuram; Avaiyar Primary school, Mela Erammalpuram; Committee Hindu Primary school, Kovarankulam; Bharathi Harijan Primary school, Singampatti; King George Primary school, Zamin Singampatti; R.C.Marava Primary school, Vairavikulam; Dharmasan Nanthini Primary school, Vellanguli; Dr.Ambedkar Primary school, Kalsunducolony; Senai Thalaivar Primary school, The Middle schools were St.Xavier Middle school, Irudayakulam; St.Theresa's Middle school, Three Lamp Thidal, Vickramasingapuram; Hindu Middle school, Adaikarangulam; St.Joseph's Middle school, Ambasamudram; Sacred Heart Middle school, Adivaram; STC Branch Middle school, Ambasamudram; Mohideen Fathima Middle school, Ambasamudram; St.Michael's Middle school, Singampatti, Sethusubramania Middle school, Urkadu, Government Tribal Residential Middle school and Kanikudiyiruppu.

In **Cheranmahadevi Block**, TDTA Primary schools at Kalkulam, Kuniyoor, Melachenkulam, V.Pudukudi, C.Samathanapuram, Kallidaikurichi, Veeravanallur, Gopalasamudram, Mela Cheval, Muneeswarankudiruppu, North Idayankulam, Pillaikulam, M.Samathanapuram, Melasadayamankulam, Uganthachiapuram and Vayalnabikulam. St.Soosai primary school, Cheranmahadevi, Saradha Vidyalaya Primary school, Viravanallur; Yadhava Primary school, Viravanallur; Chitra Primary school, Kallidaikurichi, Ekambara Primary school, Kallidaikurichi, Lalitha Primary school, Kallidaikurichi, Saraswathi Primary school, Kallidaikurichi, Committee Harijan Primary school, Koolachi, Muthamil Primary school, Karukurichi; Committee Harijan Primary school, Karukurichi;Ganapathy Primary school, V.Pudukudi; Hindu Nadar Primary school, Polikkarai; S.T.C.Branch Primary School, Melacheval; CMS Evangilical Primary school, Karisal; C.M.S. Evangilical Primary school, Odaikarai, CMS Primary school, Pulavankudiyirupu; C.M.S.Evangilical Primary school, Pattankadu; Hindu Primary school, Cheranmahadevi; Committee Harijan Primary school, Cheranmahadevi; Nataraja Primary school, Gopalasamudram; Hindu Harijan Primary school, Kothankulam; Saraswathi Primary school, Keelacheval; Hindu Primary School, Karisulnathamangalam; Mupidathi Primary school, Pathamadai; Sankar Subbier Primary school, Pathamadai; Saraswathi Primary school, Pathamadai; Committee Harijan Primary school, Shenbagavaliammankoil cheri; Sri Gandhiji Primary school, Keeladesamanickam; B.D. K.M.C.Primary school, Kolumadai; Muslim Committee primary school, Cherankovilpathu, The middle schools are, R.C.Middle school, Veeravanallur; Lurdu Antony Middle school, Veeravanallur; St.John's Middle school, Veeravanallur; Hindu Middle school,

Karukurichi; Committee Middle school, Cheranmahadevi; Thirugnanasambandar Middle school, Viravanallur; Kamaraj Middle school, Viravanalur; Lakshmipathi Middle school, Kallidaikurichi; R.C.Middle school, Cheranmahadevi and The Middle school, Melacheval.

In **Kadayam Block** TDTA Primary schools at Agampillaikulam, Karuthapillaiyar, Sadayandiyur, Asirwathapuram, Koviloothu, Mettur, Mylappapuram, Serraikaranpatti, Kanavoor and Kadayam. STC branch Primary school at Alwarkurichi; Roman Catholic Primary schools at, Sankarankudiyiruppu, Nelliappapuram, Pandarankulam, Keelakadayam and Pottalputhur. Kuppusamy Primary school, Adachani; Hindu Primary school, Alwarkurichi; Harijan Primary school, Parumbu Alwarkurichi; Nataraja Primary school, Chellapilliarkulam; Arulappar Primary school, Chettikulam, Hillar Primary school, Mattumanthaiyur; Harijan Primary school, Poovankurichi, Jamalia Primary school, Pottalpudur, Hindu Primary school, Ravanasamudram; Hithayathullah Muslim Matharasa Primary school, Ravanasamudram; Rahumania Primary school, Sambankulam; Bharathi Primary school, Thuppakudi; Hindu Primary school, Vellikulam; Rosalin Primary school, Ananthapperumal Vadanoor; Sri Kamaraj Primary school, Chokkalingapuram; Chatram Bharathi primary school, Kadayam; Sithar Primary school, Narayappapuram;Thiru Arumugam Primary school, Theertharappa puram; Thiru Murugan Primary school, Valliammalpuram. The middle schools are: Roman Catholic Middle school, Kalyanipuram; Sri SailapathiMiddle school, Alwarkurichi; Gnanam Marava Middle school, Govindaperi; Sri Meenakshi Middle school, Kalambur; Ganapathi Middle school, Papankulam; Renganatha Middle school, Papankulam; Sri Athirikala Nilaya Middle school, Sivasailam; Sri Kailasam Memorial Middle school, Thirumalaiyappapuram; TDTA Middle school, Iythankattalai; TDTA Middle school, Pulvanaoor; R.C.Middle school, Vaikalipatti; Veera Ulagammal Middle school, Chekkadiyur, Sri Ramanarayana Nadar Middle school, Pungampatti; Kashtriya Comittee Middle school, Vengadampatti.

In **Kadayanallur Block**, Arulmigu Venkata Vidyasalai, Kadayanallur; Manikavala Primary school, Kadayanallur; Hindu Maravar Primary School; Duraisamipuram; Hindu Nadar Primary school, Duraisamipuram; Hindu Primary school, Nainaragaram; Rukmani Primary school, Mangalapuram; Rukmani Primary school, Mangalapuram; Rukmani Primary school, Valliammalpuram; Hindu Primary school, Kalklampuli; Thangam Primary school, Chinnathambinadanoor; Sundara Primary school, Rettaikulam; Gandhi Primary school, Krishnapuram, Thirunavakkarasu Primary school, Krishnapuram; Hindu PrimarySchool, Mavadical; Senaithalaivar Committee Primary school, Melakadayanallur; Kithayathul Islam Primary school, Kadayanallur; Krishna Primary school,Kadayanallur; Melapalayam Hindu Primary school, Kadayanallur; Hindu Primary school, Sanganaperi; Hindu Valayar Primary school, Chockampatti, Hindu Primary school,

Chockampatti; Harijan Primary school, Chockampatti; Thiruvalluvar Primary school, Muthusamipuram; Hindu Primary school, Kangankulam; Thangam Primary school, Arunachalapuram; R.C.Primary school, Chockampatti; Muslim Primary school, Thirukoodapuram; Muruga Primary school, Pughukudi, Hindu Primary school, Kambaneri; Harijan Primary school, Boganallur, Sri Subramania Vidyasalai Primary school, Kanagasabapathiperi; TDTA Primary school, Kadayanallur; Pettai Muslim Primary school, Kadayanallur,The Middle schools are at Darusalam Middle School, Kadayanallur, Sri Kailasa Middle school, Idaikal; Hindu Middle school, Sivarampettai; Hindu Madhava Middle school, Kodaikurichi, Sri Sivasailanatha Middle school, Neduvayal;Thiru Maria Louis Middle school, Neduvayal, Vivekananda Middle school, Muthukrishnapuram, Ratna Middle school, Muthukrishnapuram; Hindu Middle school, Thirukudapuram; Sri Sankara Middle school, Krishnapuram; Masod Thaika Middle school, Kadayanallur; Sri Ulaga Middle school, Muthukrishnapuram, Pudur New Middle school, Kadayanallur and Hindu Middle school, Singilipatti.

In **Kalakad** TDTA primary schools at Dhonavur, Kalungadi, Thoppur, Santhosapuram, Keelakaruvelangulam, Chidambarapuram, Kalakad, Meevankulam, Tharuvaikulam, Athichaperi, South Kaduvetti, North Kaduvetti, Neduvilai, and Erukkalaipatti. Roman Catholic Primary school, Nambithalaivanapattiyan; Hindu Primary school, Kothaiseri; Hindu Primary school, Ochikulam; Hindu Primary school, Kovilammalpuram; Hindu Primary school, Sengulakurichi, Hindu Primary school, Levingipuram; Hindu Primary school, Eravadi; Hindu Primary school, Chettinadu, S.V.Hindu Primary school, Eruvadi; U.A.I.S.Primary school, L.N.S.Puram, Eruvadi; Hindu Primary school, Alangulam; Arumugam Primary school, Puliyoorkurichi; Hindu Primary school, Puliankulam; Hindu Primary school, Vadukachimathil; Hindu Primary school, Avaranthalai; Roman Catholic Primary school, Pothai South; C.M.S.Primary school, Mongiladi; C.M.S.Primary school, Melakarai;C.M.S.Primary school, Vaduvanpatti; Hindu Primary school, Sri Govindaperi; A.D.Hindu Primary school, Malaiyadicheri; Hindu Marava Primary school, Devanallur; Neelakanda primary school, Pathai; Kailasapathi Hindu Primary school, Singikulam. The middle schools were: St.Xavier's Middle school, Xavierpuram; Hindu Middle school, Thrikkurungudi; Jawahar National Middle school, Salaiputhur, Hindu Marava Middle school, Malayadiputhur; Hindu Middle school, Mavadi; The Salvation Army Middle school, Nambiyaradapu; TDTA Middle schools at Perungulam, Idayankualm, Sadayamankulam East and Manjuvilai. Roman Catholic Middle school, Meenavankulam; C.S.I.Middle school, Melapathai; Hindu Middle school, Devanallur; Sri Nammalwar Middle school, Kallikulam; K.A.M.P.Meerania Middle school, Kalakad; Hindu Middle school, Pandithankurichi; Muthia Hindu Middle school, Kovilpathu.

In **Keelapavoor Block**, TDTA Primary schools at Athisayapuram, Bungalow Surandai, Kalloothu, Keelasurandai, Nagalkulam, Puthusurandai,Avudayanur, Kallurani, Karumbanur, Madathoor, Melakrishnaperi,Surandai,Sivasailanoor, T.Meenakshipuram, Roman Catholic Primary school, Keelapavoor and Veerakeralampudur. Dharma Primary school, Aladipatti; Sri Gandhi Vidyhasalai fcPrimary school, Kadabogathi, Mayandi Hindu Primary school, Keelapavoor; Somasundaram Hindu Primary school, Keelapavoor; A.V.Primary school, Keelapavoor; Nadar Hindu Primary school, Keelapavoor; Ponnusami Primary school, Kulasekarapatti; Nathaji Primary school, Kurunthavanam; Aided Muslim Primary school, Surandai; Hindu Primary school, Rajapandi; Roman Catholic Primary school, Avudaiyanoor; Roman Catholic Primary school, Panchandivur; Roman Catholic Primary school, Kandamangalam; Hindu Primary schools at Andipatti, Ariyankavoor, Chettiyoor, Navaneethakrishnapuram and Pavoorchatram; Arunachalanar primary school, Podiyanoor; Kamaraj Hindu Primary school, Karumbanaoor; Kamaraj Hindu Primary school, Karumbanoor; Hindu Primary school, Arunaperi, The middle schools are: TDTA Middle schools at Adaikalapattinam, Kurimbalperi, Rajagopalaperi and Melapattamudayar puram; R.C.Middle school, Surandai; Rathna Middle school, E.Meenakshipuram; Marava Middle school, Kaluneerkulam; Raja Middle school, Kaluneerkulam, Hindu Middle school, Muthukrishnaperi; Jawaharlal Middle school, Surandai, Anna Middle school, Veerakeralampudur; TDTA Middle schools, Melameignanapuram and Pethanadarpatti,Hindu Middle schools at Chinnanadanoor, Chennalthaputhukulam, Madathoor, Sivanadanoor, Sivagamipuram and Subbabaoor; Thiru Sundaravel Middle school, South Poolangulam; Hindu Middle school, Vellaipaneieripatti; Kamaraj Memorial Hindu Middle school, Venaitheerthanadarpatti.

In **Kuruvikulam Block**- TDTA Primary schools at K.Alangulam, Avudayalpuram, Jerusalem Dharmanagar, Kuruvikulam, Kuruvikulam Pudur, Kondureddipatti, Kulakkattakurichi, Kalappalankulam, K.Karisalkulam, Kokkukulam, Melasivagamiapuram, Nainampatti, Naluvasankottai, Pillayarnatham, Ramalingapuram, Rockanoor, Sathirakondan, Sathirapatti, Vadakkupatti, Vaiyakoundanpatti. The middle schools are: TDTA Middle schools at Sayamalai and Vagaikulam, Roman Catholic Middle school, Chidambarapuram; RomanCatholic Middle school, Rengasamudram; RomanCatholic Middle school, Ilayarasanendal, M.P.M.Swamy Middle school, Alaganeri; Thiru Shunmugiah Middle school, Vannikonendal; Hindu Middle school, Ayyaneri; Veerappa Hindu Middle school, Malayankulam. Hindu Middle school, Naranapuram; A.P.A.C.Middle school, Puliankulam, Hindu Middle school,at Paraipatti,and Karisathan; Gnanasundariammal Middle school, Swaminathapuram; Sivaramasubbusamy Middle school, Vellakulam; Hindu Middle school, Vadakkapatti.

In **Manur Block**- TDTA Primary schools at Karambai, Mavadi, Rashtha, Samboothu, Suthamalli, Vellaiankulam, Bharathiarnagar, Gangaikondan and Nanjankulam, Moorthi Senthamil Primary school, Kandiaperi, Sengol Atheenam Primary school, Keelakallur; Gandhi Vidyalaya Hindu Primary school, Keelapillaiyarkulam; Hindu Primary school, Marandaipudur; Hindu Primary school, Sanganthiradu; Hindu Primary school, South Vagaikulam, Harijan Primary school, Suthamalli; Harijan Primary school, Thirupanikarisalkulam, Saraswathi Hindu Primary school, Uhanthanpatti, Hindu Primary school, Vallavancottai, Gandhi Memorial Primary school, Velarkulam.

APPENDIX - 2

List of High Schools in each Educational District as in 1993

Tirunelveli Educational District

1.	Government High School,	Thirumalapuram
2.	-do-	Vellalankulam
3.	-do-	Sayamalai
4.	-do-	Alamanayakkarpatti
5.	-do-	Sevakulam
6.	-do-	Periyakovilankulam
7.	-do-	Manur
8.	-do-	Sivalaperi
9.	-do-	Buckimanagaram
10.	-do-	Palamadai
11.	-do-	Muneerpallam
12.	-do-	Tirunelveli
13.	-do-	Tirunelveli town
14.	-do-	Sendamangalam.

Aided High School

1.	C.E.T.Deennison High School,	Keelakalangal
2.	Hindu Harijan High School,	Kurukkalpatti
3.	Grama Committee High School,	Venkateswarapuram
4.	A.V.High School, NGO Colony,	Sankarankoil
5.	Maipparai HighSchool,	Maiparai
6.	36 Grama Senaithalaivar High school,	Sankarankoil

7.	C.M.M.L.High School,	Vadamalapuram
8.	Sengunthar High school,	Subbulapuram
9.	Thirurudaya High School,	Mela Elanthaikulam
10.	P.Sivanthi Adithanar High School,	Mangudi
11.	Jothi High School,	Solaiseri
12.	Muslim Girls High School,	Melapalayam.

Cheranmahadevi Educational District

1.	Government High School,	Kavalkinaru
2.	-do-	Samugarengapuram
3.	-do-	Nanguneri (Girls)
4.	-do-	Chettikulam
5.	-do-	Pazhavoor
6.	-do-	Kudangulam
7.	-do-	Thirukurungudi
8.	-do-	Kuttam
9.	-do-	Munanjipatti
10.	-do-	Karanthaneri
11.	-do-	Dalapathisamudram
12.	-do-	Marudhamputhur
13.	-do-	Kallidaikurichi
14.	-do-	Pothukudi
15.	-do-	Manimuthar
16.	-do-	Manjolai
17.	-do-	Ariyanayagipuram (North)
18.	-do-	Cheranmahadevi
19.	-do-	Padamaneri (Girls)

Aided High Schools

20.	Fathima High School for Girls	Vallioor
21.	Stellah Mary's High School for Girls	Thisaianvilai
22.	K.A.M.P.Meerania High School,	Kalakad
23.	P.V. High School,	Gopalasamudram
24.	Chatram Bharathi Girls High School,	Kadayam

25.	Thiru Irudaya High School,	Panagudi
26.	Hindu High School,	Kannakulam
27.	St.Mary's High School,	Mannarpuram
28.	Thiru Murugan High School,	Valliammalpuram
29.	Thiru Irudaya High School,	Kavalkinaru
30.	S.A.High School,	Vallioor
31.	Sri Ramakrishna High School,	Thisaianvilai
32.	T.D.T.A.High School,	Melasaval
33.	Muslim Committee High School,	Cherankovilpathu
34.	Senaithalaivar High School,	Vickramasingapuram

Tenkasi Educational District

1.	Government High School,	Mullikulam
2.	-do-	Pullukattuvalasai
3.	-do-	Melapavoor
4.	-do-	Maranthai
5.	-do-	Neduvayalachanpudhoor
6.	-do-	Panpozhi
7.	-do-	Oothumalai
8.	-do-	Sundarapandiapuram
9.	-do-	Themalai
10.	-do-	Anaikulam
11.	-do-	Veerakeralampudhur
12.	-do-	Oormelayagiyan
13.	-do-	Puliyangudi(Girls)
14.	-do-	Pavoorchatram (Girls)
15.	-do-	Nelkattumseval
16.	-do-	Vadakarai

Aided High School

1.	Hindu High School,	Keelapuliyoor
2.	Lakshmi Harihara High School,	Elathoor
3.	Balavinayaga High School,	Sivagiri
4.	Kammavar High School,	Voswanathaperi
5.	AV High School,	Keelapavoor

6.	Committee Nadar High Schol,	Sivagiri
7.	Rukmani High School,	Kadayanallur
8.	Stellah Mary's Girls High School,	Sivagiri
9.	Nadar Uravinmurai Kamaraj Girls School,	Vasudevanallur
10.	AVS High school	Puliyangudi
11.	Royagiri Si.Pa.Athithanar Girls' High School,	Royagiri
12.	Quai-de-Milleth Mohammed Ismail Sahib High School,	Puliyangudi
13.	Hindu Nadar Uravinmurai High school,	Puliyangudi
14.	Muslim HighSchool,	Vadakarai
15.	Mohaideenia High school,	Vasudevanallur
16.	Hindu High School,	Mayamankurichi.

APPENDIX - 3

No. of Institutions students / teachers in the Primary, Middle & High Schools between 1947 to 1993

Year	No.of schools			No.of pupils						No.of teachers					
				Primary		Middle		High		Primary		Middle		High	
	PS	MS	HS	boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls	male	female	male	female	male	female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1947	1414	542	57	54627	36420	46370	27989	25533	2560	3947	2443	1896	1153	1138	199
1948	1461	547	63	60720	40120	46790	28261	25758	5635	4076	2451	1902	1157	1147	205
1949	1512	553	69	70800	47280	47288	28397	25983	5710	4115	2466	1896	1159	1255	209
1950	1547	557	74	91905	56270	47566	28589	26063	5780	4134	2482	1911	1163	1262	213
1951	1590	563	77	95898	57756	57998	28877	26116	6388	4154	2497	1916	1166	1277	233
1952	1610	565	78	95996	57808	47947	28504	26266	6463	4227	2598	1943	1183	1296	241
1953	1623	567	81	96094	57858	47997	28979	27303	7515	4335	2675	1954	1190	1307	250
1954	1650	569	63	105896	75302	51499	33002	27310	7863	4403	2734	1976	1196	1339	261
1955	1672	577	73	107196	75902	52307	33202	30229	9212	4668	2749	2076	1236	1429	311
1956	1680	589	90	117196	81022	54897	35198	31629	10659	4768	3149	2126	1436	1789	411
1957	1749	600	116	120196	85805	57787	35703	33129	11682	4890	3174	2135	1448	1824	449
1958	1759	605	124	123196	89712	56577	36204	35136	12729	4813	3224	2151	1472	1929	504
1959	1770	611	133	126211	93621	59424	36711	37045	37048	4840	3324	2168	1490	2034	559
1960	1784	613	143	129206	97530	60277	37219	38463	15168	4894	3334	2289	1494	2139	669
1961	1794	615	144	132707	105445	65217	33715	40515	16665	4926	3397	2430	1477	2228	670
1962	1823	616	150	135226	107905	70840	39441	42817	17118	4958	3460	2571	1860	2317	726

APPENDIX- 3 (contd.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1963	1851	619	156	135714	110303	76238	45340	45318	18621	4990	3533	2712	2043	2406	783
1964	1875	624	161	137917	112714	81325	51122	47803	19126	5023	3581	2853	2226	2495	840
1965	1902	627	167	140315	113021	86812	57315	49116	23670	5058	3650	2994	2408	2584	897
1966	1927	631	173	143812	113391	92118	60010	51323	22215	5089	3713	3136	2592	2673	954
1967	1954	635	178	146307	115798	98217	66513	53648	23765	5092	3777	3276	2778	2762	1011
1968	1991	638	184	148819	116210	104511	72717	55990	25517	5126	3840	3417	2958	285	1068
1969	2047	642	190	151315	118687	109719	78213	58007	27815	5166	3968	3558	3141	2940	1125
1970	2132	647	198	154118	122115	115903	84443	61199	29617	5195	4029	3699	3324	3029	1118
1971	2212	653	205	157213	126217	122057	91918	64315	32319	5234	4054	3840	3507	3118	1239
1972	2382	659	212	160454	131130	129778	98561	67508	34450	5283	4081	3982	3689	3215	1290
1973	2396	656	212	163275	134282	130289	100757	67916	32775	5306	4137	3905	3614	3215	1295
1974	2411	663	215	165418	138575	131363	102933	68317	42319	5315	4269	3998	3702	3413	1298
1975	2416	660	218	168201	142772	132417	106700	68388	46718	5324	4354	4002	3734	3644	1302
1976	2446	637	221	174275	146884	138596	109708	70499	48633	5336	4379	4021	3776	3713	1355
1977	2453	655	225	180536	154892	151214	120047	73603	58100	5370	4335	4116	3646	3509	1543
1978	2451	663	143	183036	157099	154421	12036	19227	8641	5376	4423	4077	3736	794	546
1979	2462	664	139	185536	159303	157626	127273	21684	9248	5382	4496	4037	3836	871	559
1980	2475	667	137	188034	161503	160830	130888	28131	7854	5388	4592	3966	3939	949	569

APPENDIX- 3 (contd.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1981	2502	670	136	190536	163708	163947	134406	24628	10454	5395	4651	3881	4044	1028	581
1982	2535	672	135	193032	165899	167164	137123	26055	11165	5499	4729	3848	4153	1108	581
1983	2564	675	132	195205	167969	7039	14215	27580	11763	5403	4807	3876	4280	1190	601
1984	2566	676	136	197407	173217	172571	144372	29677	14894	5457	4819	3897	4287	1209	617
1985	2568	678	137	198615	178310	174348	147764	31855	17958	5481	4837	3919	4296	1219	629
1986	2570	679	139	204600	104478	176903	151004	34808	21716	5504	4856	3928	2304	1234	639
1987	1526	638	79	27910	112103	87461	75427	17404	15588	3487	2639	2378	2342	786	504
1988	1526	368	80	36589	116123	89366	78320	18562	15772	3447	2701	2381	2430	788	576
1989	1532	363	82	38953	117588	90225	78455	20389	15837	3556	2789	2789	2301	800	795
1990	1552	361	93	40652	124672	94490	78626	23158	16902	3602	2888	2387	2432	802	597
1991	1567	380	94	165941	135136	114872	108812	30852	22356	3666	2889	2508	2135	868	620
1992	1547	390	95	166745	135811	115426	109366	31006	23067	3669	2889	2562	2190	868	620
1993	1540	397	96	166650	136196	115514	109514	31110	23088	3669	2889	2568	2194	868	620

PS - Primary Schools
MS- Middle Schools
HS - High Schools

APPENDIX-4

List of Higher Secondary Schools in Each Educational District (As in 1993)

Tirunelveli Educational District

1.	Government Higher Secondary School	Sankarankovil(Boys)
2.	-do-	Sankarankovil(Girls)
3.	-do-	Kuruvikulam
4.	-do-	Kalingapatti
5.	-do-	Karivalamvandanallur
6.	-do-	Virasigamanai
7.	-do-	Vanniconendal
8.	-do-	Ilayarasanendal
9.	-do-	Reddiarpatti
10.	-do-	Gangaikondan
11.	-do-	Thiruvengadam

Aided Higher Secondary Schools

12.	Sri Gandhimathi Ammal Girls Higher Secondary school	Palayamkottai
13.	Sarah Tucker Girls Higher Secondary School	-do-
14.	Mary Sargent Girls Higher Secondary school	-do-
15.	Child Jesus Girls Higher Secondary school	-do-
16.	St.Ignatius Girls Higher Secondary school	-do-
17.	St.Xavier's Higher Secondary School	-do-
18.	St.Johns Higher Secondary School	-do-
19.	Cathedral Higher Secondary School	-do-
20.	M.D.T.Hindu College Higher SecondarySchool	Tirunelveli
21.	Schaffter Higher Secondary School	-do-
22.	Sri Mandhiramoorthy Higher Secondary school	Tirunelveli town
23.	M.N.Higher Secondary School	Palayamkottai

APPENDIX-4 (Contd.)

24.	Muslim Higher Secondary School	Melapalayam
25.	Rahumania Higher Secondary School	-do-
26.	Fathima Oriental Arabic Girls Higher Secondary School, Kadhirnagar	Tirunelveli.
27.	St.Josephs Girls Higher Secondary School	Palayamkottai
28.	Sankar Higher Secondary school,	Sankarnagar
29.	TDTA Higher Secondary school,	Ukkirankottai
30.	NSR Higher Secondary School,	Sankarankoil.

Municipal (Corporation) Higher Secondary Schools

31.	Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School,	Tirunelveli Jn.
32.	Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School,	Tirunelveli Tn.
33	Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School,	Pettai

Government Adi Dravidar Welfare schools

34.	Govt.Adi Dravidar Boys Higher Secondary School,	Nallammalpuram

Matriculation Schools

35.	Chinmaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School	Palayamkottai.
36.	Rose Mary Matriculation Higher Secondary school	Palayamkottai.
37.	Pushpalatha Matriculation Higher Secondary school	Palayamkottai.
38.	Saradha Matriculation Higher Secondary School, V.M.Chatram	Tirunelveli.
39.	Sri Jayendra Swamigal Silver Jubilee Matriculation Higher Secondary School	Tirunelveli.11
40.	St.Xavier Matriculation Higher Secondary School	Tirunelveli-3
41.	Magadaline Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Shanthi Nagar	Palayamkottai.
42.	Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Matriculation Higher Secondary school	Sankar Nagar.

APPENDIX-4 (Contd.)

Cheranmahadevi Educational District

1.	Government Higher Secondary School,	Cheranmahadevi
2.	-do-	Nanguneri
3.	-do-	Eruwadi (Boys).
4.	-do-	Eruwadi(Girls)
5.	-do-	Maruthakulam
6.	-do-	Parappadi
7.	-do-	Ambasamudram
8.	-do-	Kalakad
9.	-do-	Moolaikaraippatti
10.	-do-	Ittamozhi
11.	-do-	Vallioor
12.	-do-	Radhapuram
13.	-do-	Panagudi
14.	-do-	Veeravanallur

Aided Higher Secondary Schools

15.	PLWA Higher SecondarySchool,	Vikramasingapuram
16.	St.Marys Higher Secondary School,	Vikramasingapuram
17.	Sokkalal Higher Secondary School,	Mukkudal
18.	Theerthapathi Higher Secondary school,	Ambasamudram
19.	Sri Paramakalyani Higher Secondary School,	Alwarkurichi
20.	SSV Higher Secondary School,	Mathapattinam
21.	Chatram Bharathi Higher Secondary School	Kadayam
22.	Thilak Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School,	Kallidaikurichi
23.	CMSES David Memorial Higher Secondary School,	Karisal
24.	Walker Higher Secondary school,	Donavur

APPENDIX-4 (Contd.)

25.	Samariah St.Johns Higher Secondary school,	Kulasekaranvilai
26.	St.Aloyusius Higher Secondary school,	T.Kallikulam
27.	Nehru National Higher Secondary School,	Vadakkankulam
28.	Concordia Higher Secondary School,	-do-
29.	St.Theresa Higher Secondary School,	-do-
30.	Concordia Higher Secondary school,	-do-
31.	C.C.M.Higher Secondary School,	Idaiyankudi
32.	St.Joseph Higher Secondary School,	Kootapuli
33.	Holy Redeemers Higher Secondary School,	Thisaiyanvilai
34.	Bishoproche Higher Secondary school,	Idindakari
35.	Amali Girls Higher Secondary school, (Vickramasingapuram)	Irudayakulam
36.	Baliah Marthandam Higher Secondary school,	Avaraikulam
37.	St.Annal Higher Secondary school,	Koodangulam
38.	Ameerjamal Higher Secondary school,	Idayankulam
39.	Kadermeerasahib Higher Secondary school	Pettaikulam
40.	Gomathi Arulneri Girls Higher Secondary school.	Kalakad
41.	St.Johns Higher Secondary school,	Veeravanallur
42.	Ramasehier Higher Secondary school,	Pattamadai.

Matriculation Schools.

43.	Sivanthi Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Cheranmahadevi
44.	AVRMV Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Ambasamudram
45.	Gains Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Valliyoor

APPENDIX-4 (Contd.)

46.	Santhosh Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Donavur

Tenkasi Educational District

1.	Government Higher Secondary School,	Shencottah(Boys)
2.	-do-	Shencottah(Girls)
3.	-do-	Tenkasi(Boys)
4.	-do-	Tenkasi(Girls)
5.	-do-	Alangulam
6.	-do-	Kadayanallur(Boys)
7.	-do-	Kadayanallur(Girls)
8.	-do-	Pavoorchatram
9.	-do-	Ayikudi
10.	-do-	Vasudevanallur
11.	-do-	Sambavarvadakarai

Aided Higher Secondary Schools

12.	WestTirunelveli Higher Secondary School,	Nallur
13.	R.P.Higher Secondary School,	Ilangi
14.	D.K.D.R.Higher Secondary School,	Courtallam
15.	TDTA Barenbruck Higher Secondary School,	Bunglowsurandai
16.	Hindu Nadar Uravinmurai Committee Higher Secondary school,	T.N.Pudukkudi
17.	Senaithalaivar Higher Secondary School,	Sivagiri
18.	Committee Nadar Higher Secondary school	Ramanathapuram
19.	MM Higher Secondary School,	Idaikal
20.	Mazood Thaikka Higher Secondary school,	Kadayanallur
21.	St.Michael Girls Higher Secondary school,	Tenkasi

APPENDIX-4 (Contd.)

22.	Royagiri Hindu Nadar Uravinmurai Si.Pa.Sivanthi Adhithanar Higher Secondary School,	Royagiri.
23.	St.Arulappar Higher Secondary School,	Avudanaoor
24.	Seeniammal Higher Secondary school	Chinthamani, Puliangudi
25.	Kanna Girls Higher Secondary school,	Chinthamani, Puliyangudi
26.	Suyambulingam Higher Secondary school,	T.N.Pudukudi Puliangudi
27.	Senaithalaivar Higher Secondary school,	Puliangudi
28.	St.Antoniyar Girls Higher Secondary school,	Veerakeralampudur
29.	Hindu Nadar Uravinmurai Committee Higher Secondary School,	Ariyanayagipuram.

Matriculation Schools

30.	A.V .Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Tenkasi
31.	A.V.Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Shencottai
32.	Kanna Matriculation Higher Secondary school,	Puliyangudi
33.	Sri Ramakrishna Matriculation Higher Secondary School,	Alangulam

APPENDIX-5

Name of the prize winning schools

Year	*Football*	*Volleyball*	*Hockey*	*Basket ball*	*Athletics*	*Amount*
1986-87	St.Mary's Higher Secondary School, V.K.Puram	Cathedral Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai	St.Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai	M.D.T.Hindu Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli	Thilak Vithyalaya Higher secondary School, Kallidaikurichi	Rs. 50,000
1987-88	St.Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai	-do-	St.Johns Higher Secondary School, Ambasamudram	Theerthapathy Higher Secondary School Palayamkottai	St.Johns Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai	Rs. 50,000
1988-89	St.Mary's Higher Secondary School, V.K.Puram	Sacred Heart High school, Panagudi	-do-	-do-	Cathedral Higher Secondary school Palayamkottai	Rs. 50,000
1989-90	West Tirunelveli Higher Secondary School, Nallur	Cathedral Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai	P.L.W.A.Higher Secondary School, V.K.Puram.	M.D.T.Hindu Higher Secondary School Tirunelveli	-do-	Rs. 50,000

APPENDIX-5 (Cont....)

Year	*Football*	*Volleyball*	*Hockey*	*Basket ball*	*Athletics*	*Amount*
1990-91	St.Mary's Higher Secondary school, V.K.Puram	-do-	St.Johns Higher Secondary school, Palayamkottai	Govt.Higher Secondary School school,	St.Johns Higher Secondary school Palayamkottai.	Rs. 50,000
1991-92	-do-	Tilak Vidayalaya Higher Secondary school, Kallidaikurichi.	St.Xavier's Higher Secondary school Palayamkottai.	M.D.T.Hindu Higher Secondary school, Tirunelveli	Ramaseshier Higher Secondary School Pathamadai	Rs. 50,000
1992-93	West Tirunelveli Higher Secondary School-Vadakkankulam.	Cathedral Higher Secondary School, Nallur	-do-	St.Xavier's Highr Secondary School Palayamkottai.	St.Theresa Higher Secondary School, Palayamkottai	Rs. 50,000

APPENDIX-6

Students admitted in different courses from 1980 to 1993.
(Ambai Arts College)

Year	*B.A.Economics*		*B.Com.*		*M.A.Economics*	
	boys	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*
1980	33	09	43	14	–	–
1981	28	13	46	15	–	–
1982	31	20	49	15	–	–
1983	42	20	44	20	–	–
1984	37	18	47	17	17	03
1985	48	16	44	20	20	04
1986	45	25	45	25	17	03
1987	58	12	52	18	15	05
1988	46	18	48	22	12	08
1989	46	24	48	22	21	09
1990	58	12	49	21	19	–
1991	38	32	48	22	13	03
1992	46	20	45	21	16	03
1993	41	23	38	26	09	11

APPENDIX-7

The strength of students admitted in various courses from 1980-81 to 1993-94 - Government Arts College for Women.

Year	*B.A. all major*	*B.Sc. all major*	*B.Com.*	*M.A.*
1980-81	158	085	–	12
1981-82	111	143	–	22
1982-83	096	188	–	18
1983-84	133	147	31	24
1984-85	183	293	90	21
1985-86	218	300	148	24
1986-87	183	273	176	20
1987-88	148	287	161	21
1988-89	181	335	162	22

APPENDIX-7 (Contd...)

1989-90	139	288	158	19
1990-91	164	344	172	17
1991-92	278	368	175	18
1992-93	423	359	178	17
1993-94	423	383	178	17

APPENDIX-8

Strength of students admitted in various courses from 1980-81 to 1994-95 - Pausmpon Muthuramalinga Thevar College

Year	B.A.		B.Sc.		B.Com.		M.A.		M.Sc.		M.Com.	
	boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls
1980-81	61	–	16	–	131	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1981-82	91	4	32	3	169	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
1982-83	99	3	65	7	175	7	–	–	–	–	–	–
1983-84	174	10	100	14	116	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
1984-85	96	4	134	13	152	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
1985-86	120	6	152	17	149	8	–	–	–	–	–	–
1986-87	111	14	152	18	140	11	29	6	16	4	38	5
1987-88	125	19	158	15	161	10	22	6	30	11	40	7
1988-89	110	22	159	20	146	10	12	24	0	16	42	8
1989-90	85	19	117	14	101	6	13	–	48	14	35	6
1990-91	102	22	168	36	105	9	19	1	46	19	38	4
1991-92	170	38	164	64	128	15	21	2	35	22	26	4
1992-93	225	45	190	64	167	17	7	1	41	26	22	4
1993-94	275	70	185	74	173	15	5	3	28	15	8	3
1994-95	252	15	175	83	173	6	12	3	22	12	7	1

APPENDIX-9

Statement showing the total number of students in Sadakathullla Appa College from 1980-81 to 1993-94.

Year	B.A.	B.Sc.	B.Com.	M.A.	M.Com.
1980-81	258	365	201	50	48
1981-82	253	367	203	50	48
1982-83	260	367	210	50	48
1983-84	258	391	202	25	48
1984-85	232	413	210	26	51
1985-86	215	433	204	25	54
1986-87	216	438	208	29	58
1987-88	256	478	206	15	55
1988-89	248	503	202	26	51
1989-90	245	510	208	26	52
1990-91	248	512	210	27	51
1991-92	237	521	207	52	42
1992-93	286	559	206	47	44
1993-94	293	550	201	306	44

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APPENDIX-10

Statement showing the number of students studied in St.Sarah Tucker College from 1980 to 1993 - Girls only.

Year	B.A.	B.Sc.	B.Com.	M.A.	M.Sc.	M.Com.
1980	566	473	61	53	23	-
1981	651	532	130	73	22	-
1982	710	566	205	71	26	-
1983	706	619	212	74	26	-
1984	706	610	204	71	22	-
1985	638	587	196	90	29	-
1986	640	585	190	110	48	-

APPENDIX-10 (Contd...)

1987	575	570	182	98	65	-
1988	513	566	185	101	71	21
1989	480	565	191	105	78	37
1990	537	577	193	111	98	38
1991	617	611	192	100	103	40
1992	692	601	194	80	111	30
1993	759	630	192	106	118	18

APPENDIX-11

Statement showing strength of students in Sri Parasakthi College from 1980 to 1997 (Girls only)

Year	*B.A.*	*B.Sc.*	*B.Com.*	*M.A.*	*M.Sc.*	*M.Com.*	*M.Phil.*
1980-81	247	323	–	25	40	–	–
1981-82	257	364	33	21	39	–	–
1982-83	232	398	95	29	61	–	–
1983-84	260	441	153	23	78	–	–
1984-85	268	441	187	12	80	–	–
1985-86	274	492	185	18	79	20	–
1986-87	247	491	188	20	75	20	–
1987-88	269	518	185	16	74	35	–
1988-89	240	472	185	27	78	40	11
1989-90	226	513	183	31	89	40	06
1990-91	204	516	178	26	103	40	10
1991-92	342	593	181	22	96	43	05
1992-93	456	628	183	15	108	44	06
1993-94	579	639	187	12	115	42	01
1994-95	628	639	186	19	97	45	–
1995-96	660	654	187	30	96	41	–
1996-97	696	664	185	39	109	38	–

APPENDIX-12

Statement showing the number of students since the inception of the college in 1986 - Sri Saradha College for Women.

Year	*B.A.*	*B.Com.*	*B.Sc.*	*M.C.A.*
1986-87	6	30	13	–
1987-88	13	53	48	–
1988-89	32	129	116	–
1989-90	35	128	175	–
1990-91	42	115	209	–
1991-92	55	132	270	–
1992-93	84	161	308	15
1993-94	128	178	367	23
1994-95	158	184	405	41
1995-96	173	181	427	41
1996-97	180	182	467	57

APPENDIX-13

Strength of students in B.Ed and M.Ed courses from 1980 to 1993 (St. Ignatious College of Education for Women.)

Year	*B.Ed.*	*M.Ed.*
1980	104	–
1981	106	–
1982	105	–
1983	110	09
1984	120	–
1985	125	5
1986	123	6
1987	100	10
1988	110	4
1989	125	4
1990	130	6
1991	125	10
1992	110	6
1993	110	5

APPENDIX-14

Statement showing the number of students studied in the college since 1980 (St.John's College)

Year	B.A.	B.Sc.	B.Com.	M.A.		M.Sc.		M.Phill.	
				boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls
1980	344	465	49	83	-	49	-	-	-
1981	336	468	100	84	-	62	-	-	-
1982	357	491	146	81	-	71	-	-	-
1983	354	482	152	81	-	63	-	-	-
1984	358	490	145	84	-	65	-	-	-
1985	380	495	137	76	-	75	-	-	-
1986	390	424	118	77	-	80	-	-	-
1987	404	441	126	81	-	75	-	-	-
1988	372	491	136	79	-	89	-	6	-
1989	328	485	135	57	20	34	60	1	5
1990	324	483	132	64	15	41	57	2	4
1991	326	471	135	57	16	38	45	2	4
1992	379	500	148	64	10	28	60	4	2
1993	399	499	164	62	09	35	58	3	2

APPENDIX-15

Various courses offered by the college and their year of introduction are as given below - St.Xavier's College

Name of the Degree Courses	*Year of Introduction.*
B.A. Mathematics	1923
B.A. Economics	1932
B.Sc. Physics	1956
B.Sc. Zoology	1952
B.Sc.Botany	1968
B.Com	1968
M.Sc. Mathematics	1970

APPENDIX-15 (Contd...)

M.A. Tamil	1971
M.Sc. Zoology	1976
B.A.English Literature	1982
M.Sc. Botony	1982
M.Phil. Tamil	1983
M.Phil. Mathematics	1986
B.Sc.Computer Science	1986
M. A.Folklore	1987
M.Com.	1988
P.G.D.C.A.	1993
M.B.A.	1993
P.G. Dip.in Finance Management	1995

APPENDIX-16

Statement showing the number of students in St.Xavier's College of Education from 1980-81 to 1993-94

Year	*B.Ed.*	*M.Ed.*		*M.Phil.*			
				Part-time		*Full-time*	
	boys	*boys*	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*
1980-81	72	-	-	-	-	-	-
1981-82	70	-	-	-	-	-	-
1982-83	72	3	-	-	-	-	-
1983-84	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
1984-85	91	-	-	-	-	-	-
1985-86	98	2	3	-	-	-	-
1986-87	121	3	2	-	-	-	-
1987-88	100	6	-	-	-	-	-
1988-89	111	3	-	-	-	-	-
1989-90	122	2	3	5	1	3	3
1990-91	125	4	2	4	2	4	2
1991-92	125	4	3	5	1	-	4
1992-93	110	1	5	6	-	2	4
1993-94	110	4	3	2	4	5	1

APPENDIX-17

Statement showing strength of students in the college from 1987-1993 is given below: (M.D.T.Hindu College)

Year	*B.A.*	*B.Sc.*	*B.Com*	*M.A.*	*M.Sc.*	*M.Com.*	*Other courses*
1987	244	277	182	69	71	45	12
1988	245	269	170	62	67	50	12
1989	240	319	161	78	65	53	5
1990	239	377	163	86	71	50	6
1991	279	473	169	74	76	49	5
1992	341	521	188	57	67	36	10
1993	355	519	190	51	65	35	6

APPENDIX-18

Statement showing the number of students admitted in various courses in Thiruvalluvar College from 1980-81 to 1993-94

Year	*B.A.*		*B.Sc.*		*B.Com.*		*M.Com.*		*DBA*	*PGDCA.*	
	boys	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*	*boys*	*girls*	*boys*	*boys*	*girls*
1980-81	42	4	46	1	53	9	-	-	25	-	-
1981-82	44	9	30	18	60	4	-	-	25	-	-
1982-83	42	10	27	21	55	9	-	-	20	-	-
1983-84	65	15	30	18	55	10	-	-	22	-	-
1984-85	31	9	26	22	48	17	17	3	20	-	-
1985-86	51	11	39	25	55	10	18	2	13	-	-
1986-87	52	8	45	25	41	21	5	5	19	-	-
1987-88	71	4	45	20	44	21	12	8	13	-	-
1988-89	37	2	36	28	37	20	18	7	13	-	-
1989-90	26	7	32	40	42	23	9	11	-	-	-
1990-91	71	20	39	42	54	15	14	11	-	17	3
1991-92	66	27	29	44	47	23	14	8	-	11	6
1992-93	77	27	49	35	44	22	10	9	-	17	3
1993-94	73	31	36	28	37	27	17	08	-	17	1

DBA - Diploma in Business Administration.

PGDCA - Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application.

APPENDIX-19

The number of students admitted in the B.D.S.course since inception is given below: (Raja's Dental College)

Academic year	*Sanctioned strength*	*Candidates admitted*
1987-88	50	36
1988-89	50	50
1989-90	100	91
1990-91	50	49
1991-92	50	50
1992-93	60	60
1993-94	60	58
1994-95	60	60

APPENDIX-20

Statement showing the number of students admitted in various branches since 1982: (Government College of Engineering)

Year	*Civil Engg.*		*Mechanical Engg.*		*Electronics& Communi-cation Engg.*		*Electrical & Electronics Engg.*		*Computer Science Engg.*	
	Boys	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Boys*	*Girls.*
1982	30	08	40	-	24	07	-	-	-	-
1983	34	07	42	-	28	12	-	-	-	-
1984	32	10	40	-	23	17	-	-	-	-
1985	28	16	40	-	24	26	-	-	-	-
1986	19	25	44	-	20	25	24	16	-	-
1987	19	31	50	-	18	32	21	31	-	-
1988	07	04	49	-	29	21	25	20	-	-
1989	02	01	50	-	35	12	21	03	13	16
1990	03	-	48	-	30	20	28	13	05	25
1991	03	-	46	-	27	18	26	19	12	09
1992	05	01	46	-	20	23	28	17	16	23
1993	05	01	50	-	25	27	30	16	22	16
1994	07	01	49	04	19	32	31	21	18	22

APPENDIX - 21

Polytechnic in Tirunelveli district

Sl.No.	Name of the Polytechnic	Type of Institution	Year of Inception	Courses Offered	Annual Intake	Agency which runs Institution
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Sankar Institute of Polytechnic Sankar Nagar	Govt. aided	1958	Civil Engineering	40	India Cements Ltd. Anna Salai Chennai.
				Mechanical Engineering	40	
				Electronics and Communications Engg.	30	
				Computer Technology	30	
				Electrical & Electronics Engg.	40	
				P.D.Computer Applications	20	
2.	Pasumpon Nethaji Polytechnic Melaneelithanallur	Self Financing	1983	Civil Engineering	60	A.R.Ponniah Charitable Trust Melaneelitha nallur.,
				Textile Engineering	60	
				Electronics & Communication Engg.	60	
3.	S.A.Raja Polytechnic Alaganeri	Self Financing	1984	Computer Technology	60	Raja's Trust Vadakkankulam
				Mechanical Engineering	60	
				Electronics & Communication Engineering.	60	

APPENDIX - 21 (Cont)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Gomathi Ambal Polytechnic Kallidaikurichi	Self Financing	1984	Civil Engineering	30	Tamilthai Charitable Trust
				Mechanical Engineering	60	
				Textile Engineering	60	
				Electrical & Electronics Engineering.	30	
5.	Arulmigu Senthil Andavar Polytechnic Tenkasi	Self Financing	1985	Civil Engineering	60	Chinnapandian Charitable Trust
				Mechanical Engineering	60	
				Electrical & Electronics Engineering.	60	
6.	M.S.P.Velayutha Nadar Lakshmithai Ammal Polytechnic Pavoorchatram	Self Financing	1985	Civil Engineering	40	Nadar Mahajana Sangam, South Charitable Trust Madurai
				Mechanical Engineering	60	
				Electronics and Communication Engineering	40	
				Automobile Engineering	60	
				Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	40	
7.	Institute of Road Transport Polytechnic Konganthanparai. Palayamkottai	Self Financing	1992	Electrical & Electronics Engineering.	30	Institute of Road and Transport Department
				Electronics & Communication Engineering.	30	

APPENDIX - 22

List of Industrial Training Institutes

Sl.No.	*Name of the I.T.I.*	*Trades offered*	*Sanctioned strength.*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*
1.	**Government Industrial Training Institutes:**		
1.	Pettai	Welder	96
		Moulder	32
		Fitter	144
		Turner	72
		Machinist	48
		Wireman	96
		Mechanic (Radio & T.V.)	48
		Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	64
2.	Ambasamudram	Fitter	32
3.	Tenkasi	Fitter	32
4.	Veerakeralampudur	Pump Mechanic	32
		Fitter	128
2.	**Private Industrial Training Institutes:**		
1.	A.G.Industrial school, Shencottah	Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
		Fitter	32
		Welder	24

APPENDIX - 22 (Contd.)

1.	2	3.	4.
2.	M.S.Ayya Vaikuntar Industrial Training Institute,T.Kalikulam,Valliyoor	Fitter	32
3.	C.M.S.Tailoring Training Institute, Vadakkankulam.	Embroidery of Needlework	32
		Cutting and Tailoring	32
4.	Kattabomman Industrial Training Institute, Vannarpet, Tirunelveli.	Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
5.	Industrial Technology Institute Computer centre, Tirunelveli	Data preparation and Computer software	80
6.	Institute of Engineering Technology	Fitter	32
		Mechanic (Diesel)	32
		Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
7.	St.Mary's Industrial Training Institute, Tenkasi	Fitter	32
		Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
		Electrician	32
8.	Muhammed Ismail Technical Training Institute, Tirunelveli	Plumber	32
		Draughtsman (Civil)	32
9.	P.M.Sankarasubbiah Memorial Industrial Training Institute, V.M. Chatram, Tirunelveli.	Mechanic (Diesel)	32
		Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
		Electrician	32
10.	Lakshmi Industrial Training Institute, Puliangudi.	Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
		Electrician	32

APPENDIX - 22 (Contd.)

1.	2	3.	4.
11.	P.G.P.Industrial Training Institute, Vasudevanallur.	Electrician	32
		Fitter	16
12.	Immanuvel Industrial Training Institute, Tenkasi.	Mechanic (Diesel)	32
		Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	16
13.	Malar Computer Centre, Tenkasi.	Data preparation & computer software	20
14.	Marudupandiar Industrial Training Institute, Dharkapuram, Tirunelveli.	Electrician	32
		Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
		Data preparation and Computer software	20
15.	Fancy Industrial Training Institute, Alangulam.	Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	16
		Mechanic (Diesel)	16
		Electrician	16
16.	Everest Industrial Training Institute, Kadayanallur.	Mechanic (Motor vehicle)	32
		Electrician	16
3.	**Industrial Schools.**		
1.	Art Industrial School, Nazereth	Carpentry and cabinet making	60
		Blacksmithy and fitting	60
		Tailoring (Boys)	
2.	A.G.Industrial School, Shencottah	Hand composing and Proof Reading	16

APPENDIX - 22 (Contd.)

1.	2	3.	4.
3.	R.C.Lace Industrial School, Vadakkankulam	Needle work, Dress making and embroidery	40
		Teacher Training Certificate course	
4.	School for the Blind, Palayamkottai	Handloom cotton weaving	80
5.	Christian Mission Service, Vadakkankulam.	Cutting and Tailoring	16
		Embroidery and Needle work	32
6.	Deo Favente Art Industrial School, Naraikinar	Needle work, Dress making and embroidery	40
		Cutting and Tailoring	16
7.	St. Mary Industrial Training Institute, Kuthukal Valasai, Tenkasi	Radio Servicing and T.V.Maintenance	20
		Mechanic Audio	16
		Cutting of Tailoring	16
		Needle work, Dress making and embroidery	20
		Teacher Training Certificate course	20
8.	Girls' Industrial Training Institute, Tirunelveli	Cutting and Tailoring	16
		Embroidery and Needle work	16
		Needle work, Dress making Embroidery	20
		Teacher Training Certificate course	20

APPENDIX-23

Blockwise distribution of Adults covered under Adult education Programme 1979-1987.

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	No.of adults enrolled and trained upto 1986-87	No.of camps conducted.
1.	Palayamkottai	13714	402
2.	Manur	1028	312
3.	Melaneelithanallur	10181	122
4.	Sankarankoil	10178	300
5.	Kuruvikulam	11421	301
6.	Cheranmahadevi	14222	409
7.	Ambasamudram	9417	285
8.	Kadayam	10336	300
9.	Pappakudi	14254	405
10.	Kalakad	12563	405
11.	Nanguneri	15445	442
12.	Valliyoor	9954	315
13.	Radhapuram	12962	415
14.	Alangulam	12746	395
15.	Keelapavoor	9385	305
16.	Tenkasi	10096	293
17.	Kadayanallur	9947	300
18.	Shencottah	9877	300
19.	Vasudevanallur	13534	400
	Total	**220522**	**6400**

APPENDIX-24

List of branch Libraries

Year 1	No.of Libraries 2	Location 3
1954, 1955 & 1956	8	Cheranmahadevi, Thatchanallur, Viswanathaperi, Tirunelveli Nagar, Tirunelveli junction, Nanguneri, Surandai and Pettai.

APPENDIX-24 (Contd...)

1	2	3
1957	5	Alwarkurichi, Keelapavoor, Kadayam,Ilangi and Panagudi.
1958	12	Sankarankoil, Karivalamvandanallur, Kalakad, Gangaikondan, Veerasigamani, Idaikkal, Mukkudal, Naranammalpuram, Seevalaperi, Puliyoorkurichi, Ukkirankottai, and Nelkattumseval.
1959	3	Melapalayam, Ambasamudram and Rayagiri.
1960	1	Eruwadi.
1961	6	Tenkasi, Puliangudi, Vadakku Valliyoor, Kuruvikulam, Kallidaikurichi and Kadayam.
1962	4	Idayangudi, Madathupatti, Vikkiramasingapuram and Courtallam.
1963	1	Vadakarai.
1964	6	Sivagiri,Radhapuram, Moolaikaraipatti, Veeravanallur, Vasudevanallur and Chokkampatti.
1965	5	Mullikulam, Vannarpettai, Pathamadai, Ittamozhi and Vadakkankulam.
1966	15	Munaijipatti, Alangulam, Uttumalai, Thisaiyanvilai, Kudangulam, Melapalayam, Ravanasamudram,Sundarapandiyapuram, Vengadampatti, Thirukkurungudi, Manimuthar,Panpozhi, Perumalpuram (Women's Library), Palaymkottai (Children's Library) and Thippanampatti.
1967	2	Serndamaram and Karaichuthupudur.
1968	3	Veerakeralamapudur, Gopalasamudram and Thenmalai.
1969	3	Pappakudi, Vijayanarayanam and Reddiyarpatti.

APPENDIX-24 (Contd...)

1	2	3
1970	7	Barathiyar St.(Tirunelveli Nagar), Chettikulam Singampatti, Thiruvengadam, Maharajanagar, Pottalpudur and Levenjipuram.
1981	1	Melakaram.
1982	2	Pazhavoor and Sivanthipuram.
1984	2	Thimmarajapuram and Sankar Nagar
1987	3	Vallam, Shencottai and Pudur.
1990	1	Achanpudur.
1997	27	N.G.O "B" colony, Melavasal, Tharuvai, V.M.Chatram, Suthamalli, Pavoorchatram, Avudaiyanoor, Kurumbalaperi,Panaiyoor, Shenkottai Melur, Sivagnanapettai, Ariappapuram, Aruncholapuram, Idaikal, Aiykudi, Pillaiyarnathan, Kuttam, Uvari, Keelakalankal, Kallikulam, Kalingampatti, Parappadi, Perumalpatti, Puliyarai, Pappangulam, Kasiyapuram & Pethanadarpatti.

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CHAPTER - 15

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Survey of Public Health and Medical Facilities in Early Times

Medicine began as an art and gradually evolved into a science over the centuries. In course of its evolution, Medicine has drawn richly from the tradditional cultures of which it is a part and later from biological and natural sciences and more recently from social and behavioural sciences and more. Medicine is thus built on the best of the past. A historic milestone in the evolution of medicine is the great sanitary awakening, which took place in England in the end of the 19th century and gradually spread to other countries. In all the South Asian Colonies of the British, a certain amount of health and sanitary legislations were passed. A number of developments with regard to the application of modern preventive medicine were made by the British. Inoculations and vaccinations against smallpox were introduced, and efforts were made to widen the area of their application. As a result of these preventive measures, the spread of plague, cholera and small-pox was effectively controlled. Towards the end of the colonial era, maternity and child welfare centres were established on an experimental basis. Some pioneering works were done in health education with the objective of controlling the spread of malaria, yaws, leprosy and hookworm. Meanwhile, the glamour for modern medical treatment in the country became so great that the British started training the Indian in this system. They imparted only minimum knowledge becasue, there were not many who knew English language, and they also thought that the Natives the required only some medical relief. Thus started the *Dresser*. then the *Hospital Assistant* and later on *Sub Assistant Surgeon*. With the establishment of Universities in various Provinces, the task of provision of higher medical education was taken up by these bodies, while the lower grade medical education was given by the government boards and private bodies.

Medical Licentiates were created by the government with the object of filling up the subordinate posts of Sub Assistant Surgeons in the hospitals and dispensary services.

Medical Facilities in Tiruneveli District

At about 1811, the scourge of diarrhoea in Madurai and Coimbatore districts spread out to Tenkasi, Nanguneri and Tirunelveli taluks causing considerable damage to the population. It appeared again in 1813. Caught unaware, the people suffered a lot as the native medicines were ineffective. This epidemic was attributed, by an Investigating Committee, to the exceptional conditions of the weather, particularly to their miasmatic

exhalation arise during the early part of the year from the stagnation of water which was the result of flooding of the country during rains. Frequent occurrence of other epidemics such as cholera and small pox was common which cut life short as no effective means of control measures were explored then.

The Committee while exposing the weakness of the then existing system of medicine suggested a shift to allopathic system which then tried proved suitable. The efforts of C.J. Bird, the then Collector of Tirunelveli, resulted in founding a *Friend-in-need Society* in 1849 with the aid of voluntary subscription for affording relief to the aged and sick. *Palayamkottai Lungarkhana* was established by the Society. In the meantime, a Government Civil Dispensary was also established at Tirunelveli under the charge of a Civil Surgeon. On the recommendation of the Collector, the amalgamation of a dispensary with the self-supporting Lungarkhana was handed over to Zillah Surgeon and the supply of quality medicine was sanctioned by the government. In 1909, a decision was taken to construct a combined hospital for Palayamkottai and Tirunelveli Municipalities after demolishing the Palayamcottai Hospital. From 1 January 1921, Government made it as Headquarters' Hospital. In February 1924, the Local Police Hospital was amalgamated with the District Headquarters Hospital, Palayamkottai. Considering the insufficiency of accommodation and want of space for further expansion in the old Headquarters Hospital buildings, there was a proposal in early 1926, for the construction of a new District Headquarters Hospital at Palayamkottai, which was fructified only on 11th December 1961, when a new 200 bedded hospital was declared open.

The allopathic system of medicine which began to spread in the district from the middle of the century was in course of time able to infuse confidence among the people by 1886. The number of hospitals and patients treated in hospital began to show signs of increase. In 1905,12 Class-III hospitals were functioning in the district. They were located at Ambasamudram (1879), Melapalayam (1893), Mela Viraraghavapuram (1890), Nanguneri (1862), Palayamkottai (1840), Panagudi (1894), Tenkasi (1879), Tirunelveli (1850) and Tirunelveli-Pettai (1901). These medical institutions were able to offer medical relief to men, women and children both indoors and out-doors. The variety of diseases treated were general malignant, diseases of nervous system diseases on eye, ear, nose, etc. Since 1924, a new programme on Medical Relief known as Goschen Scheme came into practice. Under this scheme, private medical practitioners were provided with medicines at subsidised rates by the Taluk Boards. In turn the Medical Practitioners provided free treatment to the poor at their dispensary. By 1930, the allopathy system took deep roots in the district. The number

of hospitals and the dispensaries increased. Subsidised dispensaries were also functioning in the district. The Medical Practitioners possessing the qualification of L.M.P. certificates and the midwives being either trained or locally trained and registered under the Madras Nurses and Midwives Act, 1926, were in charge of each allopathic rural dispensary in the district.[1] There were also 10 Local Fund Dispensaries functioning in the district, of which, four provided treatment in siddha system, while the rest in ayurvedic system. Each of these institutions was manned by a Medical Officer and a Nursing Orderly.

The scheme of appointing Honorary Medical Officers to all the District Headquarters Hospitals and Government Hospitals in mofussil areas was introduced in the year 1929. The scheme made considerable progress as many private medical practitioners with special qualifications in the branches of Medicine and Surgery were appointed as Honorary Medical Officers in each district.[2] This scheme was introduced in the Headquarter's Hospital, Palayamkottai also.

Since April 1923, a District Health Officer, assisted by a staff of 10 Health Inspectors and a large number of Vaccinators were put in charge of the sanitary administration of the district. Besides advising the local boards on matters of public health, he had control over the registration of vital statistics, outside the municipal areas. Delegation of powers of the District Health Officer under the compulsory clause of the Act was, however, not made by a large number of local bodies and it was an obstacle to the progress of vaccination in those areas. To vcaccinate gosha women, some of the municipalities utilized the services of their midwives, in due course, for this task midwives were given training in vaccination in their respective areas.

It was a general feeling among the public that, at the time of Independence, medical services from hospitals and dispensaries established in major towns and cities, were available only to the affluent and ruling classes. Even after independence public health consisted of some basic environmental sanitation in a few big cities, but for the rest, it was provided only when there was a massive outbreak of epidemics of diseases, such as Malaria, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Smallpox, Cholera, Intestinal Infection and Infestation, Trachoma and Filariasis.

It was during the First Plan Period steps were taken to improve the hospital facilities as well as prevention of communicable diseases in the district. As a first measure, general improvements in the existing hospitals were made. A sum of Rs.37.06 lakh was spent on the head 'Medical', during the Second Plan Period alone, in the district. During that Plan Period 48 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres were opened and an amount of Rs.1.56 lakh was spent for this purpose.[3] A good number of women were also trained as Dhais. During the Second Five

Year Plan, primary health centres were started at seven places in the then Tirunelveli district, viz. Vadakkankulam, Thisayanvilai, Pattamadai, Kuruvikulam, Pudukkottai, Sendamaram and Kizha Eral. Family Planning Clinic was attached to 12 hospitals. Maternity Assistants and Compounders after due training given by the Public Health Department were engaged in the family planning publicity work. Incentives were given for sterilization operations in the form of cash. From 1957 to 1961, 940 males and 304 females were undergone sterilization operations in the district.

Vital Statistics

The Registration of vital statstics was a problem which had engaged the attention of the government for many years in the past. Registration of Births and Deaths was compulsory in all municipalities and in those villages which the Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act of 1899 was extended. In the remaining villages, registration was carried out by Village Headman under the executive instructions. Registration in municipalities were carried out by the Councils and in non-Municipal areas by the Revenue Department, through the agency of the Village Headmen who are generally the Registrars of Births and Deaths in all villages, whether registration was compulsory or not. From 1 January 1941, government extended the Act-III of 1889 throughout the Madras Province, except to some specified backward tracts and villages. Thus, registration of births and deaths was made compulsory, throughout the Province. The compilation of vital statistics was centralised in the office of the Director of Public Health since 1932 and this helped to increase the accuracy of the vital statistics returns of the Province. Anyhow, a few backward villages and erstwhile Zamindari and Inam villages in some districts were excluded from the operation of the Act-III of 1899. During 1960, the Government extended the Act to all the villages in other district except 40 villages in all, in the districts of Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Thiruchirappalli and the Nilgiris.

In Sengottai Municipality, Birth and Death rules issued under Travancore-Cochin Municipal Act, were in force upto 1960.

At present, the Birth and Death Registration in the rural areas is being attended to by the Village Administrative Officers. The Executive Officers or Sanitary Inspectors or Health Assistants as the case may be, are the Birth and Death Registrars in the Town Panchayats. The Health Assistants are the Birth and Death Registrars in the Municipalities. The Birth and Death returns for the Village Panchayats are being received at the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, through the Tahsildars and for the Town Panchayats from the Executive Officers and for the Municipalities from the Commissioners concerned. The returns for the rural areas are processed through unit record system

of the Government Data Centre, Guindy, since 1975. The Statistical Assistants appointed for each district are responsible for the quantitative and qualitative improvements of vital statistics in their respective health unit districts. They do this by visiting primary registration units, hospitals, private medical institutions, etc.

The birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rates for the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 are as follows.[4]

	Rate	*1987*	*1990*	*1991*
		(Per 1000 Population)		
1.	Birth Rate	22.3	20.8	20.2
2.	Death Rate	6.4	6.3	6.1
3.	Infant Mortality Rate	62.0	44.7	46.3
4.	Maternal Mortality Rate	1.4	1.5	1.9

Diseases Common to the District and Causes for Mortality

The Bhore Committee, which was appointed by the Government of India in October 1943 to make a survey of the existing position in regard to health conditions and health organisation in what was then known as British India and to make recommendations for future developments, found that they had to confine themselves mainly to statistics of ill-health and death in the absence of data on positive health. The Committee found that the general death rate in British India per thousand population was 22.4, infant mortality rate was 162, and the expectation of life on birth was 26.91 for males and 26.56 for females. Nearly half the total number of deaths were among, children under 10 years of age and in this age group one half of the mortality took place within the first year of life. Although vaccination was in vogue, India continued to be a reservoir of small pox. Endemic diseases like leprosy, filariasis, guineaworm and hookworm, though not contributing to a large extent to the mortality figures, caused considerable morbidity. There was a wide prevalence of insanitary conditions in urban and rural areas. The provision of protected water supply and drainage was totally inadequate . Hospitals and dispensaries for providing medical relief to the people, particularly in the rural areas were grossly insufficient and the quality of such services were very poor.[5] The more important diseases prevalent in the country were malaria, tuberculosis, small pox, cholera, plague, leprosy, venereal diseases, hookworm disease, filaria, guineaworm, cancer, mental diseases and mental deficiency.[6] The rural sanitation units were empowered to visit various districts by turns and carried out intensive campaign against hookworm and for the provision of suitable

latrines in the districts in which they were working.[7] By the end of 1937, one such unit, which had been stationed at Tirunelveli, on completion of its three years stay was transferred to some other district.[8] Though plague prevention work was chiefly under the control of the District Collector, the District Health Officer and his health staff were largely responsible for the spread of the epidemics in the rural areas of the district. The propaganda work by the District Health staff commenced in July 1923 in Tirunelveli district, and reports regarding their functions were furnished to the President, District Board, Tirunelveli.[9]

The number of deaths recorded due to small-pox was 1010 in 1923 as against 947 in 1922. The measures adopted to combat cholera, was anti-cholera inoculations, chlorination of drinking water, disinfection and administration of bacteriophage in experimental areas. Till the introducton of protected water supply and the satisfactory conservancy arrangements, public health was a serious menace. A band of selective Health Inspectors were given the required training for performing anti-cholera inoculations, and their services were extensively utilised at the time of the epidemic prevalence in 1933.[10] Cholera was less virulent in eight districts in the Province during 1937, of which, Tirunelveli was one. Sporadic cases were recorded in 1938 in Tirunelveli. The death due to cholera in 1938 was 28, small pox, nine, fever, 793, dysentery and diarrhoea 510 and respiratory disorders 617. There was no plague cases reported in 1938 in the district. To attend the public health in rural areas, the district had two full time Medical Officers, of whom, one was holding Indian University Degree in Public Health (BSSC) corresponding with D.P.H. Calcutta, and the other possessed a Diploma in Public Health (India) corresponding with Licentiates, 13 Sanitary and Health Inspectors, 25 male Vaccinators and 1 female Vaccinator, To implement the health service work in the urban areas of the district, two Medical Officers of Health (full time), 13 Sanitary and Health Inspectors, six male Vaccinators and one female Vaccinator were employed by the Government in 1993.[11]

During April, 1954, deaths due to cholera in Tirunelveli district alone were 22. Sporadic small pox cases were reported from the district in the same year.The usual preventive control measures were adopted against it, whenever possible, the patients were isolated. Generally, preliminary cases and all unprotected cases were taken in the infected villages and this was followed up by intensive mass vaccination. Besides routine vaccination, disinfection was carried out and wide propaganda on small pox was also done. Dysentery, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases were not prevalent in epidemic form in the district in the early 1960's. Guineaworm was prevalent in certain villages in the district in mild form. Before preventive measures were instituted, malaria was the most

common cause of illness in India as well as in the district. Consequent on the implementation of the National Malaria Control Programme in addition to the existing schemes, the activities under the scheme were extended to malarious tracts of the district. Kani settlements, Papanasam and Manimuthar projects, Ambasamudram, Courtallam and its surroundings were identified as malarious tracts in the district in 1954 and control measures were started in early 1955.[12]

During the First Plan Period medical care was broad-based. The scope of health measures was widened considerably and large scale measures for the control of communicable diseases were initiated. The Malaria Control Programme was switched over to a Programme of Eradication. Control of Tuberculosis was rationalised by adopting a National Programme including BCG vaccinations, establishment of clinics, institutions and demonstration centres and encouragement of research.[13]

Special Programmes

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

The National Leprosy Control Programme, the precursor of National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) was started in India in 1955.[14] An important qualitative change in the programme occurred after it was rechristened as Leprosy Eradication Programme in 1982 and inclusion of this under the Prime Minister's 20 Point Programme. As a consequence, the management of leprosy patients are based on multi drug treatment in place of dapsone monotherapy that was the sheet anchor of the programme until then for over 25 years. This programme is being implemented in Tamil nadu with the ultimate aim of eradicating the disease by 2000 AD. The mode of operation of the programme is case detection, treatment, rehabilitation and proper motivation by health education.

Tamil Nadu has a population of 55.6 million as per 1991 Census, with 1.39 lakh leprosy patients as on December 1991. Out of these, 48,000 cases are infectious type (MB) and 93,000 cases are non-infectious type (PB). The new Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) Programme, is in operation in all the districts of Tamil Nadu.

Due to the introduction of MDT, the case load of 5.8 lakh in 1983, has been reduced to 1.39 lakh in 1991 and the percentage of reduction is 76 which indicates the strong and speedy impact of the MDT on leprosy. The prevalence rate of leprosy cases has been reduced to 2.5 per 1000 from 9.4 (in 1983). To implement this programme, cent per cent Central assistance is provided. High priority has been accorded to leprosy by the Government of India. As on 1st January 1992, 137073 cases were identified in Tamil nadu, of which, 128129

were under treatment and 118459 were under MDT treatment. From 1983 December to 1991 December, the number of cases cured under MDT programme was 3,54,581.[15]

In this district, Control Units, at Tirunelveli, Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi and Sankarankoil are functioning. The Government Leprosy Control Unit, Sankarankoil has been upgraded from subsidiary centre during the year 1971. Ambasamudram Unit was started on 1 November 1975, Nanguneri on 8 December 1976 and Tirunelveli on 17 December 1976. Tenkasi Unit was bifurcated from Ambasamudram and Sankarankoil areas are functioning from 19 February 1988. Upto 1989, mono treatment was provided to the leprosy patients of the district. The Multi Drug Treatment was started on 28 November 1989 at Tiruneveli Control Unit and it was extended to other Control Units in the next year. The MDT programme is boosted by the following activities.

Orientation Training

Orientation Training was given to the field staff during the year 1990. The Arivoli Iyakkam Members who assembled in Palayamkottai and Melapalayam Municipality offices were explained the early signs and symptoms of this disease.

Anti-Leprosy day is celebrated in the district every year.

Tirunelveli Medical College and Hospital have also been involved in the programme; special lectures and printed handbooks on leprosy are distributed to the medical students. The students of Rani Anna Government Girls' College were screened, where two early cases of leprosy were detected.

Skin camps, school surveys, film shows, etc. are conducted in the district; and,

Anti-leprosy slogans are painted on the walls of all the government medical institutions in the district.

The Government Leprosy Control Unit at Sankarankoil and Ambasamudram are selected for being functioning as Model Control Units, since 2 October, 1993.

The achevements of the Leprosy Programme in the district since 1989 to 1994 are as follows:-

Year	*New case detection*	*Cases registered for treatment*	*Cases discharged*
1989-90	5070	6294	8084

1990-91	3296	2962	1055
1991-92	2598	2363	8245
1992-93	2052	1782	4582
1993-94	1799	1810	2193

Japanese Encephalitis

Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is an infection of the central nervous system caused by a virus transmitted to man through mosquito bites. It has been occurring in the South East Asia and Western Pacific Region for a long time, with epidemics mainly in Japan, Korea and in some Provinces of Taiwan. In 1955-56, small outbreaks of Japanese Encephalitis were recognised in some districts of Tamil nadu. This is a zoonotic disease i.e., infecting mainly animals and incidentally through them to man. In some instances, the outbreaks were associated with rainfall or with irrigation and, in some other areas with floods.

An outbreak may be of a short duration, ie. two to three months, In West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, however, cases of Encephalitis continued to occur for a period of four to six months. Children in the age group of 2-5 years bear the major burnt of the attack. In most of the epidemics, the incidence in males was higher than that in females.

The onset of the illness is usually acute and is heralded by fever. The essential features of this stage are general malise, headache and fever often accompanied by rigor, headache is usually severe and either frontal or generalised. Nausea and vomiting are common. To combat this disease, vaccine prepared from mouse brain, which exists in liquid form, is administered to the patients. Those who have previous vaccination history, may be given one booster dose, Protection will follow in eight to ten days after the booster.[16]

In the composite Tirunelveli district, number of attacks during 1978 was 302, and the number succumbed to death was 99. The number of attacks in 1983 was 56 which reduced to 28 in 1984, while the cases reported as dead were 11 in 1983 and 12 in 1984.

Tuberculosis Control Programme

Tuberculosis, one of the major public health problems in the developing countries of the World today, has made its impact felt through ages. It is an infectious disease, mainly transmitted by exposure to Tuberculosis germs (i.e.) *tuperculosis bacilli* spread into the air from a patient with pulmonary tuberculosis. Coughing, wheezing and even talking by a patient fill the air with droplets of moisture containing the tuberculosis bacilli. 16-18 persons per thousand of the population in India have x-ray evidence of the tuberculosis in their lungs and nearly

a quarter of these patients are infectious and excrete tuberculosis germs in their sputum. In Tamil Nadu approximately, there are about 10 lakh tuberculosis patients, among them there are about 2.50 lakh patient who got infected.

The government provide good infrastructural facilities on general health services in the form of district hospitals, taluk hospitals, primary health centres and their sub-centres. The Tuberculosis Control Programme (an integrated programme with the general health services,) has incorporated its diagnostic and treatment activities into the net work of these general health services, so that, the tuberculosis service could become easily available to the patients.

District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC) provides leadership and managerial support to the general health services in the district in implementing this programme. One District Tuberclosis Centre in each district has been established. Each centre is headed by a Civil Surgeon, (Tuberculosis Specialist), designated as the District Tuberculosis Officer. At the State level, the Joint Director (Thorasic Medicine) assists the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services for co-ordinating and controlling the Tuberculosis Control Programme activities.

The clinic system and home treatment have gained momentum. Little stress is laid on in-patient treatment as a vast majority of the tuberculosis patients can be successfully treated in their homes. This is a significant break-through in the management of this disease.

In Tirunelveli district, the District Tuberculosis Programme (DTP) was evolved in 1962, to be the new basic unit of National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), In consonance with, the public health concept of recognition, the demographic -cum-administrative unit of the country, the district was chosen on the programme region too.

The District Tuberculosis Programme (DTP) is the basic organisational unit of National Tuberculosis Programme. All the health institutions that undertake case finding and treatment for tuberculosis including Tuberculosis Clinic or a Tuberculosis Sanatorium are considered as District Tuberculosis Centre, and peripheral health institutions. District Tuberculosis Centre, a specialised tuberculosis institution in the district, is concerned with planning, implementation, co-ordination and supervision of tuberculosis case finding and treatment. It is thus the pivot around which the District Tuberculosis Programme revolves. All the health institutions including Tuberculosis Clinic other than District Tuberculosis Centre and Tuberculosis Sanatorium are called peripheral health institutions which are categorised as x-ray centres, offering x-ray, aş well as direct microscopy of sputum and treatment. Microscopy centres, offer direct microscopy examination and treatment. Referral centres, prepare sputum smears for direct

microscopy examination at the nearest microscopy centre and treatment. Under DTP, case finding, treatment, management and recording and reporting are undertaken. BCG Vaccination is carried out as a part of Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI).

In addition to the provision of monetary support, the Government of India also offer advice and guidance; training to the key personnel, supply quality anti-tuberculosis drugs, etc. to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Performance under the District Tuberculosis Programme in the district during the year 1993-94 is as follows:-

1.	Total number of new out-patients who attended the DTC and other Centres:	)(	1059745
2.	Number of new x-ray (chest) examination done	)(	12698
3.	Number of new sputum examination done	)(	13194
4.	a) Number of pulmonary T.B. patients detected	)(	6001
	b) Among them, number of sputum positive cases	)(	604
5.	Number of new non-pulmonary Tuberculosis patients detected	)(	404
6.	Number of patients completed treatment during the year.	)(	1193
7 .	Number of patients lost from treatment during the year	)(	4884
8.	Number of new Peripheral Health Institutions where District Tuberculosis Programme was implemented during 1993-94	)(	1
9.	Total number of Peripheral Health Institutions functioning under the District Tuberculosis Programme.	)(	81
10.	Total number of inspection visits made by the District Tuberculosis Office	)(	129
11.	Total number of special camps organised during 1993-94	)(	6

Special (TB) camps were organised by SCAD, a non-governmental organisation in Cheranmahadevi, twice during 1993 and in 1994, at Kulasekarankottai, Sankupatti, Kallikulam and Pattathur.[17]

The names of the Peripheral Health Institutions functioning under the District Tuberculosis Programme in the district as on 31 March 1994 are as follows.

Teaching Institution;- Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital- Palayamkottai

Government Hospitals

Ambasamudram, Ayikudi, Cheranmahadevi, Kadayanallur, Kalakad, Melapalayam, Nanguneri, Radhapuram, Sankarankoil,. Sengottai, and Sivagiri,

Government Dispensary : Puliyangudi

Primary Health Centres

Alankulam, Ariappapuram, Burkitmanagar, Chockkampatti, Eruvadi, Elathur, Elayarasanendal, Gangaikodan, Kadayam, Kalingapatti, Kallidaikurichi,T. Kallikulam, Karisalpatti, Karivalamvandanallur, Koodankulam, Koviloothu, Kurukkalpatti, Kuruvikulam, Madathupatti, Manur, Manimuthar, Maruthamputhur, Moolaikkaraipatti, Mukkudal, Munanjipatti, Nettur, Panagudi, Pattamadai, Pavoorchathiram, Paliyarai, Rajavallipuram, Reddiarpatti, Sambar vadagarai, Sayamalai, Sendamaram, Singikulam, South Vijayanagaram, Subbulapuram, Sundarapandiapuram, Surandai, Thachanallur, Thirukkurunkudi, Thiruvenkadanatha-puram,Thisayanvilai, Ukkirankottai, Uthumalai, Vadagarai Keelpidagai, Vadakkankulam, Viravikulam, Valliyoor, Vannikkonendal, Vasudevanalllur, and Veerakeralampudur.

Organisational Set up of the Medical Department

The Department of Public Health was formed in 1923, the improvement of the general health conditions in the State with special emphasis on the prevention and control of communicable diseases. In 1966, the Department of Health Services and Family Planning was formed by merging the Directorate of Medical Services after separating the Medical Education from the Medical Services and the Directorate of Public Health.

In 1976, the Integrated Dapartment of Health Services and Family Planning was bifurcated into the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and the Department of Medical Services and Family Welfare. In the new set up, while the Family Welfare Wing continued to function under the Medical Wing, the Drug Control Branch was attached to the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. In November

1981, the Drug Control Administration was separated to form an independent department. In February 1980, the functions relating to the static component of Primary Health Centres, the Mobile Health Teams and also organisation of Mini Health Centres were separated from the Public Health Department and a new Department called the Directorate of Primary Health Centres was formed.

During 1988, a separate Directorate of Public Health Training and Continuing Education was formed to be in charge of pre-service and in-service training programme for Medical Officers, Health Personnels and Para Medicals. This Directorate was again merged with the Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in March 1991.

In 1980-81, the district level set up of the department was reorganised. Seven Regions were formed each headed by a Regional Deputy Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, with jurisdiction of two to three Revenue Districts. Each Revenue District was bifurcated into two or three Health Unit Districts and in all, 29 Health Unit Districts were formed, each headed by a District Health Officer. The Regional Deputy Directors were made responsible for micro level planning and implementation of various health activities and exercised technical and adminstrative control over the District Health Officer/Municipal Health Officers.

Government have again reorganised the district level set up in 1991 and the Joint Director of Health Services was made in charge arge of both Public Health and Medical Services in each Revenue district. He is assisted by three Deputy Directors from public health side with geographical jurisdiction and responsible for public health and family welfare activities in the district.

The composite Tirunelveli district was bifurcated into Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district and V.O. Chidambaranar district in October 1986. Consequent on this bifurction, a new District Medical Officer's Office for Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district was sanctioned duly upgrading the Government Hospital, Tenkasi, into Government Headquarters Hospital. The new District Medical Officer's Post for Tirunelveli-kattabomman district at Tenkasi started functioning with effect from 29 November 1986.[18] Since 10 November 1992, the post of District Medical Officer has been upgraded as Joint Director of Health Services By merging the Health and Medical Department, the Joint Director of Health Services is having overall control in the district.[19] The Deputy Director of Health Services at Sankarankoil, one Deputy Director of Medical Services at Tirunelveli, and another Deputy Director for Family Welfare at Tirunelveli assist the Joint Director in implementing the programmes. School health programmes familly welfare programmes, tuberculosis programmes,

malaria eradication programme and control of infectious and epidemic diseases are monitored by the Joint Director of Health Services. Under his control, the district headquarter's hospital at Tenkasi, 10 government hospitals, a government dispensary, a mobile unit at Ambasamudram, 63 primary health centres and 385 health sub centres are functioning in the district. During 1993-94 about .76 lakh patients got treated as in-patients. Five hundred and twelve major operations, 6736 deliveries and about 1.25 lakh laboratory tests were done in the district headquarters hospitral during the period referred to above.

The major medical institutions functioning in the district, as in 1993-94 under the control of the Joint Director, Tenkasi, their bed strength and staff position are as given below.[20]

Sl.no	*Name of Hospitals*	*No.of Beds*	*Doctors*	*Nurses*	*Para-medical Staff*
1.	Government Headquarters Hospital, Tenkasi	88	21	21	39
2.	Government Hospital Sankarankoil	120	11	17	20
3.	Government Hospital, Kadayanallur	54	6	9	19
4.	Government Hospital, Ayikudi	12	2	2	4
5.	Government Hospital, Sengottai	36	6	7	17
6.	Government Hospital, Ambasamudram	58	9	16	10
7.	Government Hospital, Cheranmahadevi	26	3	3	9
8.	Government Hospital, Melapalayam	30	4	4	10
9.	Government Hospital, Nanguneri	50	3	6	8
10.	Government Hospital, Radhapuram	6	1	1	4
11.	Government Hospital, Sivagiri	--	3	1	3
12.	Government Dispensary, Puliyangudi	2	3	--	7

Medical Facilities Provided in Rural Areas

In this district, the Primary Health Centre is entrusted with the responsibility of undertaking the following health activities:

1. Safe Mother-hood and Child Survival.
2. Malaria and Filaria Control
3. Zoonotic Diseases Control.
4. Universal Immunisation Programme.

5. Oral Rehydration Therapy.
6. Acute Respiratory Infection Control.
7. Communicable Disease Control.
8. Supervision of public health measures and sanitary arrangements for fairs and festivals.
9. Public health and preventive measures during natural calamities like drought, floods and unseasonal heavy rains.
10. Monitoring of air and water quality by analysis of water and air samples.
11. Prevention of food adulteration by enforcing Food Adulteration Act.
12. Health and Vital Statistics.
13. Community Nutrition and Research Education.
14. Industrial health and control of dangerous and offensive trades.
15. Health and Family Welfare Education.
16. Training of Health Para Medicals.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have brought down the targeted population to 30,000 from one lakh by each Primary Health Centre. Two Medical Officers have been appointed for each Primary Health Centre, so as to render medical help and to meet the health needs of the rural people.

For every 5000 population, a Health Sub-Centre has also been established in the rural areas. A pair of Multi Purpose Health Workers (male and female) carry out all the health care delivery services including maternity and child health, nutrition and family welfare. After the introduction of the Multi Purpose Health Workers Scheme in 1982, all the vertical health programmes were integrated and the unipurpose health function areas were merged with the multi purpose health function areas.

The number of patients treated in all the Primary Health Centres in the District. (Both in-patients and out-patients)

Year	*Sankarankoil Health Unit District*	*Tirunelveli Health Unit District*
1991	533748	652659
1992	384082	727249
1993	366607	730521

During 1992-93, 881 deliveries were conducted in the Primary Health Centres,135 in the Health Sub-Centres, and 40166 in Government Hospitals, private nursing homes, conducted by the village health nurses, trained and untrained Dhais etc.,[21]

The staff position in the Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centre level throughout the district, is 118 Doctors, 19 Community Health Nurses, 64 Sector Health Nurses, 420 Village Health Nurses, 17 Block Health Supervisors,160 Multi Purpose Health Supervisors, 179 Multi-Purpose Health Assistants, 43 Laboratory Assistants and Pharmacists.

The Tirunelveli Health Unit District has 34 Primary Health Centres and 217 Health Sub-Centres, while Sankarankoil Health Unit District has 28 Primary Health Centres and 168 Health Sub-Centres on their rolls. The district, however, does not have Mini Health Centre.

List of Primary Health Centres, functioning in Sankarankoil and Tirunelveli Health Unit Districts are as detailed below:-

Primary Health Centres in the Sankurankoil Health Unit District

1. Alangulam, 2.Nattur, 3.Uthumalai, 4. Chockampatti, 5. Idaikkal, 6. Elathar,7. Sambavarvadakarai, 8. Puliyarai, 9. Karivalamvandanallur, 10. Madathupatti,11. Subbulapuram, 12. Kuruvikulam, 13. Kalingapatti, 14. Ilayarasanendal, 15. Sayamalai, 16. Pavoorchatram, 17. Ariappapuram, 18.Surandai, 19.Veera keralam Pudur, 20. Sendamaram, 21. Kurukkalpatti, 22.Vannikkonendal, 23. V.K.Pidagai, 24. Vallam, 25. Vasudevanallur,26. Rayagiri, 27. Thalaivankottai. 28. Sundarapandiapuram

Primary Health Centres in Tirunelveli Health Unit District

1. Kadayam, 2. Koviloothu, 3. Mukkoodal, 4. Marudamputhur, 5. Pathamadai, 6. Karisalpatti, 7. Veeravanallur, 8. Kallidaikurichy, 9. Vairavikulam, 10. Manimuthar, 11. Vikramasingapuram, 12. Munanjipatti, 13. Ettamozhi, 14. South Vijayanrayanam, 15. Moolaikkaraipatti, 16. Tiruvenkadanathapuram, 17. Tirukkurungudi, 18. Singikulam, 19. Ervadi, 20. Reddiarpatti, 21. Burkit Mangalam, 22. Rajavallipuram, 23. Munneerpallam, 24. Thachanallur, 25. Thisayanvilai, 26. Koodankulam,27. T.Kallikulam, 28. Vadakkankulam, 29. Panagudi, 30. Valliyoor, 31. Sanganapuram, 32. Ukkirankottai, 33. Manur, and 34. Gangaikondan,

Health Schemes implemented through the Primary Health Centres Scheme on Child Survival and Safe Motherhood

This scheme fully assisted by the Government of India, is being implemented in a phased manner. It has 1. Sustaining Universal Immunisation Programme for infant and expectant mothers.2. Control of diarrhoeal diseases and dehydration deaths through Oral Rehydration Therapy Programme for children below five years. 3. Universalising existing

prophylaxis schemes on control of anaemia in pregnant women, control of blindness caused by vitamin deficiency for children upto three years of age and, 4. Introducing and expansion of acute Respiratory Infection Control Programme for children upto five years of age.

Tirunelveli is one of the four districts in the State which implements this scheme since 1992-93. The female health staff, and the Medical Officers of the primary health centres have been trained specially to implement the programme in peripheral level and monitoring the same respectively. Registration of ante-natal mothers, immunisation against tetanus toxoid, supply of iron and folic acid tablets during ante natal period, conducting safe delivery, taking birth weight of the baby, immunising the baby against six killer diseases and monitoring the health of the child for the diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infection and vitamin 'A' deficiency are the primary duties of the peripheral level workers under this scheme.

Dr. J.Jayalalitha's 15 Point Programme for Child Welfare

This programme aims at the increase of the average birth weight of the children to three kilograms by 2000 AD, elimination of vaccine preventable diseases, reduction of infant mortality rate less than 30/1000, elimination of micro-nutrient deficiencies to make all the hospitals and maternity centres *Baby Friendly*, to promote breast feeding, to liberate women from the early marriage and frequent child bearing, to identify congenital heart diseases and free surgeries for children.

Epidemic Control Programme

Control of communicable diseases is one of the major programmes under public health care services. Of all the diseases, acute diarrhoeal disease and suspected cholera, gain priority among the water borne diseases. All preventive measures are taken to control these diseases by utilising anti-cholera vaccines while the male health personnel are engaged in the control programme, the female health workers educate the public on environmental sanitation during the epidemic period. Routine surveillance of suspected cholera cases, disinfection of houses in the affected areas, isolation of cases and arranging for treatment at the epidemic areas, anti-cholera inoculation of all people at risk, ensuring personal hygiene of the food handlers in all public catering establishments through inspections, taking water samples from water supply system and all water sources for testing the chemical and biolcgical qualities including estimation of residual chlorine level, the local bodies are addressed for connective action.

School Health Programme

The history of medical inspection in schools dates back to 1887, in the World, when the New York City (USA) had salaried Medical Inspectors, under the Board, of Health. In Madras, during 1927, the late Rajah of Panagal introduced the scheme of medical inspection which aimed at the true welfare of every child studied and not the mere collection of data for statistical purposes. The inspection will materialise in improved health and vigorous mentality of the individual child.

The functions of the school medical inspection scheme are: (1) a detailed examination of the pupils and offering best medical advice - medical and sanitary supervision of all pupils: (ii) hygiene instructions to pupil, (iii) instructions in physical exercises, which include hygiene, physical training, temperance, and management of open-air schools and (iv) athletic control.

In rural areas. majority of the school pupil, invariably ends their career in schools. Therefore, it is necessary to provide them health education during this tender age[22] At present, the school health programme is implemented in rural areas through the primary health centres. To implement the scheme, each primary health centre has an additional post of Health Visitor. The Medical Officers of the respective primary health centres are responsible for the successful implementation of this programme.

In urban areas, urban school medical inspection units set up during 1981-82 looks after this job. The unit consists of one Medical Officer, two Health Visitors and one Basic Servant. They give health education to the children, teachers and parents, in addition to health appraisals. Children requiring specialised treatment are referred to nearby hospitals for required treatment.

It is reported that during 1993-94, about 1,55,233 school children of Sankarankoil Health Unit District were examined by the Medical Officers.

Prevention of Food Adulteration

The Government of India enacted Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in 1954, (i) to ensure quality food to consumers and (ii) to prevent the consumers from fraud or deception, and, (iii) to encourage fair trade practices.

This Act is implemented throughout the State; food samples are lifted in the local body areas notified by the government by the trained Sanitary Inspectors and Health Supervisors and are tested in Food Analysis Laboratories. Prosecutions are launched for the adulterated cases confirmed.

Dr.J.Jayalalitha Mahalir and Kulanthaigal Maruthuva Nala Thittam

This scheme is being implemented in the State since March 1993. Under this, women and children who need medical treatment are provided proper medical care in the nearby well equipped government hospitals. A Special School Health Programme for the children in the age group of 5-15 years is also implemented, in order to protect the school children from the diseases. Under this scheme, about 66 camps were conducted during 1993-94 by which 15921 persons got benefited.[23]

Special Schemes

Mobile Medical Units

To fulfill the medical needs of the people in remote areas, mobile medical units are functioning in certain districts in the State. Each mobile unit consists of a Medical Officer, a Pharmacist, a Maternity Assistant and a Nursing Assistant. This unit would go to remote corners of villages, stop enroute at certain places which are nearer to a cluster of villages and attend to patients who do not require hospitalisation.[24] At present, there are nine mobile units functioning in the State, one of which is at Ambasamudram. The area covered by this unit is Agasthiarnagar, Mylar, Ingikuzhi, Tharvettamparai, Kidavettiparai, Porchiparai, Keeriparai, Ponvilai, Vilucheri, Koovakalu, Periamalai, Kavalkarai, Alamparai, Killikonam, Karuvaikuzhi, Thottamalai, Tetchamalai, Maducanpettai and Mengalmalai. In an average, 45 patients are treated by the mobile unit, Ambasamudram per day about 4355 patients were treated during 1982.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme framed in accordance with the provision of ESI Act of 1948 was inaugurated in Tamil Nadu in 1955. It aims the workers the sense of social security on much higher and broader scale by providing free medical aid of higher standard irrespective of his/her financial status and at the same time giving cash benefits to sustain him/her during times of sickness, disablement due to employment injury and thus to serve as a social security measure. This scheme is administered by an autonomous body which is controlled by the Union Ministry of Social Security. The finance for these scheme is derived by way of contribution from the employees at the rate fixed by the ESI Corporation. This scheme is in force in all districts and applies to factories using power and employing 20 or more persons with effect from 27 November 1985. Benefits under this scheme apply to insured persons whose monthly wages do not exceed Rs.1600/- Medical benefits are extended to the insured persons and their families under the scheme. The rate for the full medical care is Rs.220/- per annum. Under the ESI Scheme, medical, sickness, maternity, disablement,

dependent and funeral, benefits are provided, and the first of them are under the care of the State Government.The expenditure under this scheme is shared between the State Government and the ESI Corporation, New Delhi, in the ratio of 1:7.

ESI Scheme in Tirunelveli District

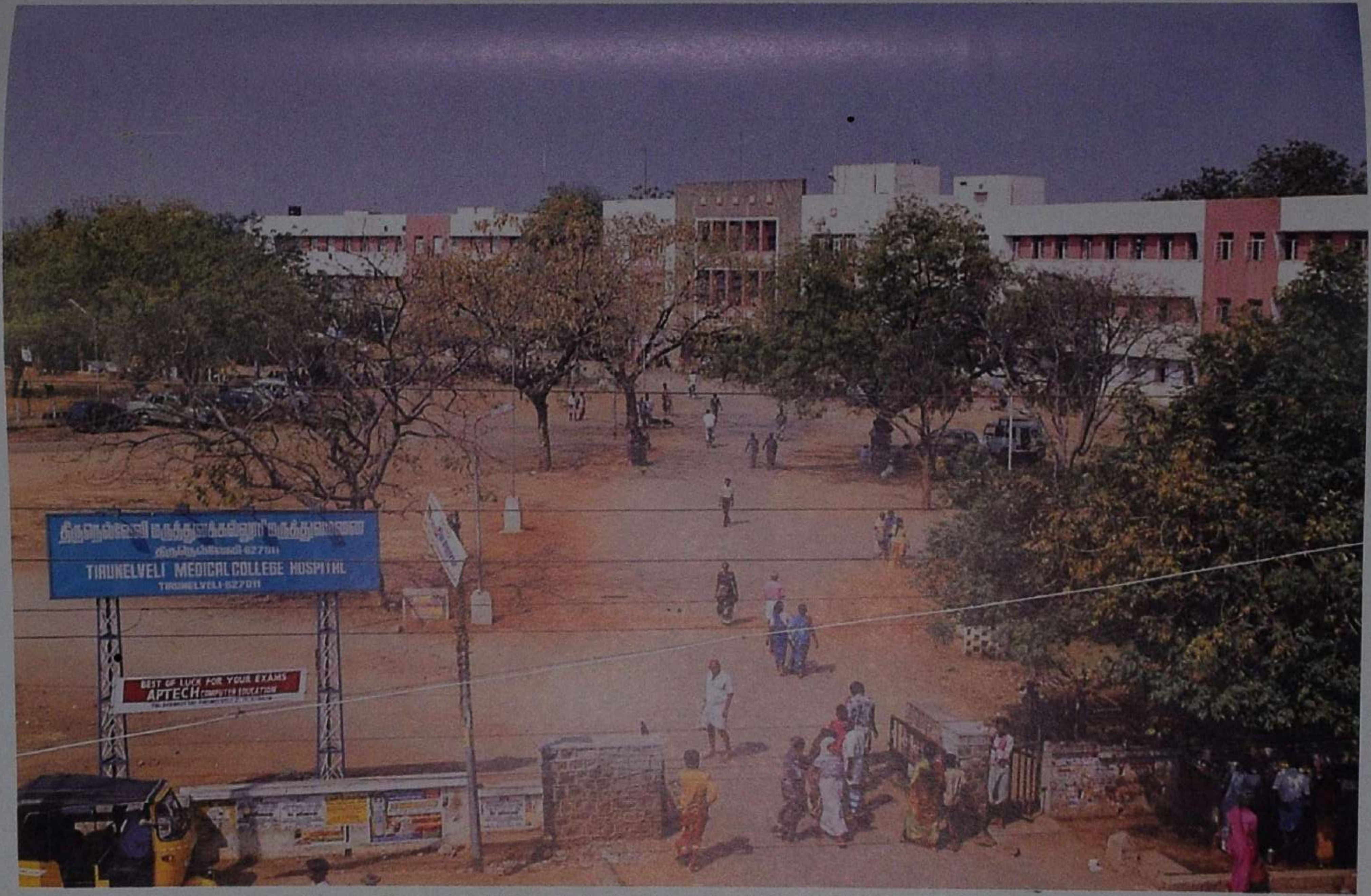
This scheme was first introduced in this district in the year 1956 with the establishment of one ESI Dispensary at Vikramasinga puram. The Medical Officers attached to Government Hospital, Ambasamudram and Lower Camp Dispensary, Papanasam Project were appointed as part time doctors of this centre. Workers in remote areas and require hospitalisation were treated in the Government Hospital at Ambasamudram.

In 1961, this scheme was extended to the family of the insured persons in Pettai, Thalayuthu and Thachanallur, of Tirunelveli area, covering about 450 workers. [25] One State Insurance Dispensary and a Mobile Dispensary were set up at that place to treat the out-patients. In Tirunelveli area, to hospitalise and to give even specialised treatment to insured persons, nine beds in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Palayamkottai and one bed at the Women and Children's Hospital, Vannarpet were set apart. At present, the district has five ESI Dispensaries situated at Nanguneri, Sankarankoil at Sivagiri, Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi.

Special Medical Institutions

Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Palayamkottai

The Government Headquarter's Hospital at Palayamkottai, was originally maintained by *A Friend in Need Society* at Tirunelveli till 1st May 1864, when it was shifted to the old Headquarters Hospital buildings known as the Palayamkottai Langar Khana. In 1858, the Langar Khana buildings were improved and a compound wall was built. In 1871, this hospital was transferred to the control of the Palayamkottai Municipality by the Committee of the Langar Khana and it was maintained by the Palayamkottai Municipality till the end of December 1920. This hospital was taken over by the goverment on 1st January 1921 and began its functions as District Headquarters Hospital.[26] In February 1924, the local Police Hospital was amalgamated with the District Headquarters Hospital, Palayamkottai. After the amalgamation, the bed strength of the hospital was 68 which was later increased to 93. The bed strength of the hospital during 1950 was 135; in 1954, it was 162; in 1959, it increased to 200 and in 1962, there was an increase of another 75 beds. In 1938, an x-ray block was opened. In the year 1948, an ENT ward, an ophthalmic ward and one more surgical ward were established in the newly constructed buildings. Since 1950, a blood bank is functioning here.



Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Palayamkottai

Considering the insufficiency of accommodation and further expansion in the old headquarters hospital buildings, proposals were sent to government in 1926 for the construction of a new District Headquarters Hospital at Palayamkottai, High Grounds. This proposal was materialised only in 1961, when the government finally completed the construction of the new building at High Grounds with 100 beds at a cost of Rs.17.61 lakh and opened it on 11 December 1961.[27] Consequent on the construction of new buildings at High Grounds, the Government District Headquarters Hospital was shifted to those buildings and the Government Women and Children Hospital, Vannarpet with 50 beds was shifted to the old buildings of the Headquarters Hospital. The bed strength of the hospital, including the women and children wing was fixed as 275 and 50 respectively. When the government proposed to start a Medical College at Tirunelveli, the Headquarters Hospital at Palayamkottai was converted into a full fledged Medical College Hospital in 1968, the erstwhile headquarters hospital buildings were transferred to the Medical Education Department in November 1968 to function as Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital. This hospital caters to the needs of the people of the three districts, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari and Thoothukkudi. Due to this arrangement, the Government Pereira Hospital,Thoothukkudi, became the new Headquarters Hospital for the combined district of Tirunelveli.

The bed strength of the hospital during 1972, was increased from 325 to 407; and it was 906 in 1994. During 1980-81, Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.47.70 lakh for the establishment of the School of Nursing. Forty students are admitted annually in two batches, one in February and another in July. During 1981, an Artificial Limb Sub-Centre and a Rehabilitation Unit were started. In the year 1983, Multi Purpose Health Workers Training School for Women was started. Every year,120 Students are selected and imparted training.

The following special departments are functioning here; Medical, Surgical, Skin, Eye, ENT, Dental, Psychiatric, Thorasic, Gynaecology, Paediatric, Orthopaedics, Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Accident Trauma, Intensive Care, Urology, Plastic Surgery, Diabetic and Hypertension Clinic, Artificial Limb Sub-Centre, NGGO Dispensary, etc. A Steam Laundry,and a Cobalt Therapy Unit are also functioning here. The hospital has 18 Civil Surgeons, 47 Civil Assistant Surgeons, 180 Nursing Personnel, 117 Para Medicals, 67 Sanitary Workers, 61 Ministerial and 318 other staff.

The number of in-patients and out-patients treated in the hospital since 1986 to 1989.[28]

Year	In-patients	Out-patients	Total
1986	30773	516580	547353
1987	31927	584188	616115
1988	31648	638456	670104
1989	33602	674336	707938

Number of Major and Minor Surgeries performed in the hospital

Year	Major Sugeries	Minor Surgeries	Total Surgeries
1986	1514	620	2134
1987	8736	5150	13895
1988	8066	5925	13991
1989	7369	5716	13085

The hospital is located in an area of 25.8 acres. Nine operation theatres are available here for the performance of major, minor, emergency, eye, septic, family planning, gynaec and other surgeries[29].

Special Departments and other Specialities available in the Government Medical Institutions in the district in 1993- 94 are as detailed below:

Government Headquarters Hospital, Tenkasi

District Tuberculosis Centre, Dental, Accident and Emergency Department, Post-Partum Centre, STD, Eye, Blood Bank, Laboratory, X-ray, Siddha and Homoeopathy.[30]

Government Hospital, Sengottai

Dental, Post-Partum Centre, Laboratory and X-ray.

Government Hospital, Ambasamudram

Dental, Paediatric, Post-Partum Centre, ESI Wing, Laboratory and X-ray.

Government Hospital, Sankarankoil

Dental, Paediatric, Accident and Emergency, Tuberculosis Clinic, Post- Partum Centre, Blood Bank, Temporary Hospitalisation Ward, STD, Ward to Leprosy Patients.

Government District Headquarters' Hospital, Tenkasi

Government Hospital, Nanguneri

Temporary Hospitalisation Ward for Leprosy Patients.

Government Hospital, Melapalayam

Tuberculosis Ward, Laboratory and Family Welfare Urban Centre.

Private Hospitals

District Headquarter's Hospital, Tenkasi

Started as a Local Fund Hospital in the year 1879, it became the government hospital in 1929. It was a 20 bedded hospital until 1961 when 20 more beds were added. It caters to the medical needs of Tenkasi and neighbouring taluks. The bed strength was further increased to 72 in the year 1970, 82 in 1979 and to 88 in 1984. Of these, Six beds are used exclusively for the post-natal care and 10 for casualty section.

As a result of the bifurcation of the composite Tirunelveli district into Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi districts, the status of the hospital was upgraded in 1986 as District Headquarters Hospital[31]. The out patient section of the hospital functions from 7.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p,m. It consists of separate wards for men, women, maternity, surgery, casualty, etc.

The hospital has the special treatment sections for eye, dental and venereal diseases, and post natal care, There are two operation theatres, one clinical laboratory, two x-ray sections, a blood bank and an ECG section. The office of the Joint Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, the District Tuberculosis Office and the Office of the District Siddha Medical Officer are also functioning within the campus of the hospital.[32]

Government Frieda Monnier Hospital, Kalakad

Island of Peace is a non-governmental social service organisation founded by a Belgium based Nobel Laurette (for Peace) - Father. Dominique Pire, in 1968, at Kalakad. This organisation concentrated on various welfare services to the people of that locality. It was running a hospital at Kalakad for a short while, which was handed over to the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1974 with the aim of providing training to the House Surgeons of the Medical College, Hospital, Tirunelveli.[33]

As a very huge sum has been received as donation from a Swiss National by name *Frieda Monnier* this hospital has been called as *Frieda Monnier Hospital*, even though it is now a government institution. This hospital though has no special departments, specialists from Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital visit this hospital every month and deliver medical

care on appointed days. Even the mobile medical team of this hospital visits villages once in a week and give treatment to the needy.

The hospital has 30 beds, as well as x-ray plant (50 MA) laboratory, a labour room and an operation theatre. It attends medico-legal, emergency and delivery cases round the clock. It also implements the family welfare schemes of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Laparascopic sterilization camps are conducted by this hospital twice a month. During 1993-94, four eye camps were conducted to help the poor patients, with the coordination of the Block Development Officers of Kalakad, Nanguneri, Valliyur and Radhapuram. Eye operations were performed by the ophthalmic team of the Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital. Through this hospital, more than one lakh persons in and around Kalakad are benefited. During 1993, 825 in-patients and 45688 out-patients were treated here[34]

Medical Institutions Maintained by the Local Bodies

Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation maintains the following medical institutions in its municipal limits: (1) Town Hospital (2) Women and Children Hospital, Kandiaperi (3) Pettai Hospital (4) Selvinagar Hospital (5) Kasthuribai Hospital, Pettai (6) Siddha Dispensary, Pettai, and (7) Siddha Dispensary, Old Pettai.

One Medical Officer, assisted by Pharmacists, Nurses and Maternity Assistants are employed for the maintenance of each hospital and dispensary. A sum of Rs.17.24 lakh was incurred for the maintenance of these institutions during 1993-94. In the six urban family welfare centres, institutional deliveries are conducted by the Municipal Corporation with 100 per cent central assistance. Each family welfare centre has attached with eight beds. A sum of Rs.10.40 lakh was spent during 1993-94 for the maintenance of these centres. This Corporation implements the Government of India's *India Population Project -II* since Apirl 1993. The aim of this project is to revamp and strengthen the primary health care services with special emphasis on Maternal and Child Health and Family Welfare Services through *Out Reach Services* in the urban areas specifically in the slums. Child Welfare Centres are also run by this Corporation. For the maintenance of these Centres, a sum of Rs.7.05 lakh was spent during 1993-94.

Swami Sivananda Centenary Charitable Hospital Pathamadai

Swami Sivananda Centenary Charitable Hospital has been set up by Swami Sivanánda Memorial Trust which is a registered Charitable Trust, in the sacred memory of His Holiness Sri Swami Sivananda Maharaj, a famous Saint and Sage of the 20th Century in his own birth place Pathamadai in Tirunelveli district. This trust extends medical relief to

the poor and needy persons in the surrounding rural areas. Swamiji was himself a doctor before he became a Monk, and service of the sick was dearest to his heart. Therefore as a fitting tribute to the saint the hospital was established with the sole motto of service.

The hospital started functioning from December 1987 and in April 1990 a 50 bedded indoor-ward was opened. Ever since, the hospital has been continuously engaged in rendering service to the patients. Daily around 150 to 450 patients attend the hospital and receive treatment.

The yearwise break-up is as follows: 1988-56306, 1989-65540,1990 - 66755, 1991 - 81751, 1992 - 78159, 1993-90838, and in 1994 - 101254 and totally, about 5.40 lakh patients were treated by the hospital since its inception to 1995. In the lying-in ward, till the end of December 1995, 3538 patients were admitted and treated. In the hospital general surgery is done and there is also a Maternity Wing, a Dental Section, Emergency Section, a X-ray Winq, Laboratory, and ECG facilities, 24 hours medical as well as Ambulance service is also available.

Besides the normal work of the hospital, for the benefit of the general public and particularly of the poor patients periodical free eye clinics (quarterly) were also conducted in collaboration with the Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli. So for 33 eye clinics were organised, examining 3021 patients and in 417 cases surgery has been done. Similarly two free ortho clinics were conducted in the hospital and 35 patients were benefited. Surgery was done on 114 patients and appliances were supplied in October 1993 and 103 patients were attended to.

The hospital functions on a charity basis and hence no consultation fee is collected from the patients. It has been set up purely with the help of donations received from the public.

Hindu Mission Hospital - Palayamkottai

The Hindu Mission Hospital established in 1985 is now managed by a Committee of 13 Members drawn from all walks of life. This was started with the objective to prevent, control, relieve and cure the needy patients. For its services, the hospital collects a nominal charge from the patients. The doctors who are attached to this hospital render free service. Two specialists, one each in the field of paediatrics and diabetic are also working here. The hospital provides only out-patients services. Between 1985 to 1993 about 3700 patients were treated here.

With the able assistance of the Rotary Club (Tirunelveli-West) diabetic screening, polio plus projects, immunisation campaigns, etc., are arranged free of cost on every Friday, drawing medical personnel from the Child Care Centre, Vannarpet.

Likewise in colloboration with all the Rotary Clubs and the Child Care Centre, Tirunelveli, rehabilitation camps for the physically handicapped, are conducted. Two such camps were arranged by the hospital authorities during September 1995, in which 1697 handicapped persons were provided with artificial limbs and calipers, donated by the Rajasthan Samithi.

Indigenous Medicine

Siddha Medicine is one of the ancient systems of medicine in the World. The unique nature of the system is its continuous service to humanity, for centuries, in curing disease and maintaining the physical, mental and moral health. Siddha medicine effects natural cure. The practice of this medicine of the *Ancients* was basically empirical in nature, often guided by strange institutions, superstitions and religious rigidities. Its development, however, reveals strikingly interesting historical unity to confirm that in the history of medicine, past is never past and modern medicine is the outcome of a continuous evolutionary process with roots reaching right upto the modern medicine and remedial of the ancients.

The word *siddha* comes from the word *siddhi* which means an object to be obtained on perfection. hence, those who attained perfection or the great super natural powers are called *siddhars or sages.* Siddhars were 18 in number. Agasthiar is considered to be the head of the other Siddhars and almost all of them have contributed their share to this field. For centuries together, the Siddha literature were written on palm leaves. Numerous treatise were added to the text by different authors. The ancient medical literature of the Agasthiar and other Siddhars which exist even today are only compendiums of older treatise that existed before. It is believed that it might have been handed over from Guru to disciple. The period of **Siddhars** could not be fixed accurately, but, they existed even before the birth of Jesus. Agasthiar or Kurumuni, (Dwarf Sage) had written several volumes on medicine. He is believed to have lived in the Pothigai Hills of the district. He is also described in the inscriptions as Muthamil Asir, ie., the Teacher of Three Tamils. He established a trigonal, natural front of the Tamil Academy which was a principal seat for Siddha medical learning in Pothigai Hills, full of medicinal herbs and plants represent the Muppu or the Three Nadis. (three pulses). Possibly it might symbolically represent them. As stated in Prapancha Kanda, 810 of Manu Sutra,

> "It is detailed therein that during its 55th year of the Kali Era, Sage Agasthia organised a Conference at Courtallam with a group of eminent Siddhars, in commemoration of which, the year was named as *Siddharthi*."

As an outcome of the Conference, a Medical Research Centre was organised to investigate the pharmacological values of various herbs, minerals, chemicals, gems, and other natural elements. This institution was run under the divine patronage of *Lord Kandan* headed by the Sage Agasthia and assisted by Bhogar of Chinese origin and Thirayar of Malayalam descendant. The last two Siddhars were in charge of scientific research and surgical research respectively. Yugi Muni and Pulipani of Kerala were in charge of research in herbs and herbal medicines. The systematic recording and copying were done by Pulathya and Kappian, respectively. For the purpose of perennial preservation, specially treated palm leaves were used. The Research Institute had a hospital attached to it to treat the general public as also wounded soldiers. In the field of surgical research replacement of bones, limbs, skin grafting. etc. were taken up, while in the field of chemical research. trial of various medicinal preparations were made on animals, for which a separate animal house was attached to the institute.

Further, adminstration of medicine through injections were also developed by the Siddars. Students from all over the World received training at this institute, where they were trained in yoga and philosophy also. In this way the Siddha system continued to work for nearly 3000 years.[35]

In later years, Siddha physicians were greatly honoured by the kings and the public. Many men and women waited at their doors from dawn. There were also two types of Siddha Doctors in the country. One was traditional family doctors, without any qualification and the other was qualified doctors. These doctors were popularly known as *Siddha Vaidhyars* or *Siddha Maruthuvars.* Even today, there is a sect (of caste) in Tamil Nadu called *Maruthuvar*. These Vaidhyars acquired knowledge from their fathers and forefathers but not through education.

This system of medicine began to decline gradually during the Mughal regime, as they had introduced a system called Unani System. There was another system of medicine called Ayurveda_which was also in vogue. The Indian ruling chiefs patronised these systems. After the advent of the British in India the allopathic system, i.e., the modern medicine gained momentum in the early years of the 20th century. At this juncture, the citizens of Tirunelveli having recognised the intrinsic value and wonderful efficacy of the siddha system of medical treatment passed resolutions at the meeting of the Second Annual Conference of the Siddha Health Week, organised in Tirunelveli, under the Presidentship of Chavadi K.S. Subramania Pillai on 27th September 1924. On the request of the public to establish a separate institution for the training of doctors and teachers of siddha medicine at Tirunelveli and to sanction liberal grants in aid for the opening and maintenance of dispensaries

on Siddha System[36], the government decided to open the college of Indian Medicine in Tirunelveli district in November 1964. Earlier, it was decided to open the college of Indian Medicine at Palayamkottai temporarily, making use of the vacant government buildings available and later the college would be shifted to Courtallam permanently after the required buildings were put up there. A site extending to about 200 acres of land was selected in Ayiraperi village, near Courtallam for the purpose, due to various reasons, the college still is functioning at Palayamkottai[37]. In the newly established college of Indian medicine, it was proposed to give more importance to Siddha system, and the college was also called *Siddha College*[38]. Save that of this College, no College by name *Siddha College* is in existence anywhere in India.

Medical relief in Indian Systems of Medicine is given through this Hospital, as well as through the Siddha Wings attached to the district head quarters hospital, taluk hospitals, primary health centres, government dispensaries and rural dispensaries in the district. At the State level, under the control of the Director of Indian Medicine, Madras, the Siddha Hospital and Siddha Wings are functioning. At the district level, the Siddha Wings are supervised by the District Siddha Medical Officer, while the Siddha Hospital, Palayamkottai, is working under the control of the Principal. The Indian Medicine Department, responsible for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine, implements various training, research and plan schemes. A brief history of the Government Siddha Medical College Hospital, Palayamkottai is furnished here.

Government Siddha Medical College Hospital, Palayamkottai

The Siddha Medical College Hospital was started with 108 beds in 1964. Later on in-patients ward with 100 beds was added. Now, the in-patient ward of the hospiral has 250 beds. The out-patients are treated between 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. in the morning and between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the evening. The Out-patients Wing consists of General Medicine (men), General Medicine (women), Thokkanam, Post-Graduate Study Centre, Research Wing and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The medicines required for the treatment of the patients of the hospital are manufactured in the Medicinal Preparation Centre of the hospital.The ingredients, herbs, milk and eggs for the preparation of the medicine are acquired from the TAMPCOL, TAPCO and Aavin of the Government Undertakings, respectively.

The various departments of the college began to provide specialised treatment for the diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, leprosy from the year 1988. Specialised treatment for cancer was started in 1989.Yoga therapy as a treatment for various diseases has been given since 1988.

Besides these, a special in-patient ward is set apart to accommodate jaundice patients.In the Paediatrics Treatment Clinic, capsules for increasing immunisation power for the children below three years are distributed. An x-ray unit also functions in the hospital.[39]

Government Siddha Medical Institutions in Tirunelveli District

For the administration of the Siddha System of Medicine in the hospitals and dispensaries of the composite Tirunelveli district, a District Siddha Medical Officer was appointed in June 1984 in the headquarters at Thoothukkudi.[40] As a consequence of the district bifurcation, a separate post of Siddha Medical Officer to be stationed at Tenkasi was created in 1987. There are 24 Siddha Sections attached to the various hospitals of the district, one Ayurvedic and two Homoeopathic Dispensaries within the administrative control of the District Siddha Medical Officer at Tenkasi. Of these, eight Siddha Sections and two Homoeopathic Sections were started after the bifurcation. The Siddha departments of the hospitals have specialised in the treatment of paralysis, (vatham), skin diseases,liver ailments,lung problems, stomach troubles, polio, etc.

The siddha department has conducted special free medical camps in the villages with the help of voluntary social service organisations. Medicines for the treatment are acquired from the IMPCOPS and TAMPCOL, Madras. The medical personnels are Assistant Medical Officers, Pharmacists and Compounders in the siddha departments of the government hospitals and Rural Medical Officers in the rural dispensaries. Number of Siddha, Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathy Wings that function in the district are given below:

Siddha wings

District Headquarters Hospital - Tenkasi, **Government Hospital** - Ambasamudram, Sankarankoil, Kadayanallur, and **Primary Health Centre,** Alangulam, Chockampatti, Kuruvikulam, Sendamaram, Mukkudal, Munanjipatti, Pathamadai,Thisayanvilai, Vadakkankulam, Valliyoor,-Kadayam,Povoorchatram,Thirukkurungudi,Vasudevanallur, **Government Rural Siddha Dispensary** Kurukkalpatti, Uthumalai

Homoeopathy Wings

Government Headquarters Hospital **Tenkasi**, Goyernment Hospital **Sankarankoil**.

Ayurvedic Wings

Government Ayurvedic Dispensary, **Sengottai**.

Dispensaries run by the Panchayat Unions

Palayamkottai Panchayat Union

Rajavallipuram siddha, **Ponnakudi**, Siddha, **Tharuvai** Siddha, and **Seevalaperi** Ayurveda.

Manur Panchayat Union		
Gangaikondan	:	Siddha
Suddhamalli	:	Ayurveda
Kuruvikulam Panchayat Union		
Thiruvengadam	:	siddha
Mela Nalanda	:	Siddha
Kalingapatti	:	Siddha
Ambasamudram Panchayat Union		
Ayyanthiruvaleesvaram	:	Siddha
Cheranmahadevi Panchayat Union		
Melacheval	:	Siddha
Pappakudi Panchayat Union		
Idaikkal: Harikesavanallur	:	Siddha
Nanguneri Panchayat Union		
Vadakku Vijayanagaram	:	Siddha
Radhapuram Panchayat Union		
Idinthakarai ; Pottaikulam	:	Siddha
Valliyoor Panchayat Union		
Avaraikulam	:	Siddha
Kadayam Panchayat Union		
Keela Ambur: Pappankulam	:	Siddha
Tenkasi Panchayat Union		
Ponpoli	:	Siddha
Alankulam Panchayat Union		
Nettur	:	Siddha
Vasudevanallur Panchayat Union		
Thirumalapuram	:	Siddha
Keelapavoor Panchayat Union		
Melapavoor	:	Siddha
Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation		
Pettai: Palaya Pettai	:	Siddha

The number of doctors, nurses and other para medical staff working in all these institutions are 70. The break-up is : Siddha Doctors 21, Homoeopathy Doctors-2, Ayurvedic Doctor-1, Pharmacists-22 (Siddha-19, Homoeo-2) Para-Medicals-21 Dispensary Servants-2, and Office Assistant-1.

Two beds have been allotted in each government hospital in general ward for those patients who undergo treatment in siddha system. The details on number of out-patients and in-patients treated in the Government Siddha Medical Institutions since 1990-1994 is given in the table below:-

Name of the hospital	*Number of out-patients treated (Years)*		
	1990	*1991*	*1992*
Siddha wings			
Government Headquarter's Hospital, Tenkasi	25481	23166	20196
Govt Hospital, Ambasamudram	21811	26074	27543
Sankarankoil	22425	15524	17946
Kadayanallur	19881	18656	19558
Government Primary Health centre,Chokkampatti	9395	8963	10860
Kuruvikulam	11175	10101	9542
Sendamaran	12971	13342	15324
Ukkirancottai	9415	13587	11964
Mukkudal	8195	9087	12677
Munanjipatti	12922	12442	2172
Pathamadai	10872	10134	2180
Thisayanvilai	10614	10417	12975
Vadakkankulam	13002	13068	12653
Valliyoor	9536	9184	10785
Kadayam	–	–	8096
Pavoor Chathram	–	–	7184
Thirukkurungudi	–	–	4882
Vasudevanalllur	–	–	6734
Government Rural Dispensary, Kurukkalpatti	7832	7921	7790
Government Rural Dispensary, Uthumalai	6010	8747	7804

Government Ayurvedic Wing, Sengottai	16228	13592	15795
Homeopathy Wing, District Head quarters Hospital, Tenkasi	15357	19444	18964

Number of in-patients treated in the Siddha System

1.	Government Headquarters Hospital, Tenkasi	30	6	2
2.	Government Hospital, Ambasamudram	27	20	23
3.	Government Hospital, Sankarankoil	13	3	3
4.	Government Hospital, Kadayanallur	6	–	–

Tamil Nadu Medicinal Plants and Herbal Medicines' Corporation, Limited

In order to cultivate and augment the supply of medicinal plants for the use of the department of Indian Medicine and general public, the Government of Tamil Nadu created a separate Corporation in 1983 at Madras. [41] This Corporation registered under the Companies Act, 1956, has the objectives of,

i) Undertaking cultivation of medicinal plants. ii) organising programme of extension, cultivation of medicinal plants through subsidy payments scheme to the farmers and tribals and procurement centres for the collection of herbal products from the farms and forests. iii) establishing drug manufacturing units, iv) exporting herbs and medicaments and manufacturing of farm yard manure from the herbal waste.

The Regional Office at Palayamkottai placed under the control of a Regional Officer, collects and distributes herbal raw drugs and maintains a model herbal garden. Green herbs like arugampul, adhathoda, keezhanelli, avuri, aloe vera, thazhuthalai, venthamarai leaves, etc., are collected from Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi, Madurai and Kanniyakumari districts and are supplied to Government Siddha Medical College Regional Pharmacy at Palayamkottai.[42]

Some herbs like vedapalai, elanthai leaves, roots of pongan, karunkurinji and kurunthotti, are collected from the Western Ghats. The Regional Office also produces and purchases dried raw drugs from various private manufacturers. About 400 items of raw drugs for the manufacture of Siddha Medicine to, Siddha Medical College and to the Regional Pharmacy at Palayamkottai. During 1993-94, approximately, Rs.18 lakh worth of dried raw drugs were sold through this office.

In the campus of the office of the Regional Officer, TAMPCOL, Palayamkottai, a Model Herbal Garden with more than 100 varieties of medicinal plants like adhathoda, aloe vera, centella asiatica, asparagus, racemosus, vinearosea. wedelia calendulacea, boerhavia, diffusa, notania grandi flora, rhinacanthus cammunis, wrightia tinctoria, etc. are grown. This garden has been useful for the students of Siddha Medical College, as well as the interested public in identifying medicinal herbs and plants. This Corporation has been planning a Medicinal Farm in 180 acres at Abhisekapatti.

Medicinal Plants Conservation Area Programme (Courtallam and Mundanthurai)

The need to develop a comprehensive conservation policy and programme to conserve the medicinal plants diversity of the country is an urgent social need. This is because on the one hand medicinal plants cater to the basic health needs of millions of rural households and on the other they form the resource base for a rapidly providing pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and bio-technology industry.[43] In 1993, a bilaterally aided Indian Danish Project was launched with the aim of demonstrating a conservative strategy to conserve the medicinal plant diversity in Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. The Government of India has entrusted the co-ordination of this four year project to the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) Bangalore, which is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the revitalisation of India's Medical Heritage.

One of the key components of this project is to evolve an approach for the *in situ* conservation of medicinal plants, which is carried out in close collaboration with the State Forest Departments. Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between FRLHT and the forest departments of the three States to undertake a pilot project for the implementation of the component of this project.

Under *in - situ* conservation, 30 Medicinal Plants Conservation Area (MPCAs) are located in different forest vegetation types of the south in order to conserve the maximum possible plant species diversity. Of these 30,11 MPCA's have been selected in Tamil Nadu on the basis of the representative of different forest types. species richness. manageability and likelyhood of success factors.

The bulk of forest is situated on the Eastern watershed of the Western Ghats starting from Sivagiri ex-Zamin forests upto Singampatti forests in the South, along the State border with Kerala.

Two sites, viz. Padarmalai beat of Mundanthurai Range and Courtallam of the Western Ghats have been selected in Tirunelveli-district for implementing the MPCA Programme, which was started

in October 1993 in Padarmalai beat of Mundanthurai Range in an area of 150 ha. To protect the area from illicit grazing, cutting timber and firewood and from fire, two Kani labourers are employed. About 5000 medicinal plants in polythene bags, are raised at Mundanthurai. during October 1994 through the funds provided by the FRLHT.

The Courtallam Medicinal Plants Conservation Area is situated on the Eastern slopes of the Western Ghats in Chittar Watershed. The Courtallam Medicinal Plants Conservation Area is a representative of Southern moist mixed deciduous forests which has a crown density varying from 0 to 08 floristically, the area is an important one considering its long standing reputations as a medicinal plants treasure house. Due to its favourable climatic conditions, a large number of medicinal plants are found in Courtallam Hills. In courtallam the, MPCA Project area is situated at an elevation ranging from 30 metres to 1500 metres. From time immemorial, a large number of medicinal plants were collected by the Siddhars from this hills. The tribals of the Courtallam Hills are also entirely depending upon these medicinal plants for curing the diseases within the community. Therefore, an area of about 200 hectares has been selected and demarcated in order to protect and conserve the valuable medicinal plants of the Courtallam Hills. The MPCA generally forms the water shed of main Courtallam Falls. There is an interesting belief in the area which claims that the therapeutic value of bathing in this water falls is due to the presence of a large number of medicinal herbs in the catchment area.

A variety of species of medicinal herbs are found in this area. a list of flora drawn from the area, totalling about 284 species has been recorded. Out of this, 123 (43%) are medicinal plants. There are 73 ethnic medical plants available here.

The Courtallam MPCA area is surrounded by the remaining Reserved Forests which act as a buffer zone which can easily be brought under this scheme. This natural high forest is in existance for centuries, is average of 163 trees per hectare.

The area is being protected from grazing, forest fire, and illicit felling. Medicinal collection is done by the two Protection Watchers who naturally stay within the MPCA.. Container seedlings of the medicinal plant value have been raised and are supplied to the local people. The people who visit the Shenbagadevi Falls gather knowledge about the medicinal plants conservation through the publicity boards erected. The Range Officer, Forester and the Forest Guard of Courtallam who are in-charge of this project have been trained in this aspect.[44]

The All India Radio, Tirunelveli too broadcasts the importance of the Conservation of Medicinal Plants. The MPCA forest lies between

185 metres to 1170 metres. Thus, a variety of species is to be expected within the watershed. The forest type indicates that some dry evergreen species are also to be found in the area. The present MPCA site in Courtallam Reserve Forest, Courtallam beat of Courtallam Range is bounded on the East by the Chittar, which falls as the Main Falls and the MPCA starts just above the Main Falls. The altitude of the area varies between 600 feet to 3800 MSL. This area also includes the Shenbagadevi Falls, the Honey Falls, etc.,

MEDICINAL PLANTS OF TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Tirunelveli District with its extensive forest cover and vast plain lands has very rich medicinal plants diversity, besides its taxonomically rich formation. Of the approximately 2000 species of angio sperms in the district around 700 medicinal plants, comprising root, tubers, bark, wood, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds, gums,resins,etc., have been reported to have occur in this district. In addition to the flowering plants,there are several Fern, Mushroom and Moss available here and few of them are medicinally used. Generally, these medicinal plants are held to be more potent because of the condusive habitat. The well distributed high rainfall, the organic rich soil and the topography prevalent here are the contributing factors for the credit.

Mythologically also the medicinal plants of this district are much revered and appreciated. Saint Agasthiar, the first Siddhar and eminent teacher of Tamil and Tamil medicine is said to have discovered several life saving medicinal plants in the Pothigai ranges which is one of the elevated parts of this district. The *Kayakalpa herbs*, the *Maha Mooligai, Sanjeevi Mooligai,* etc., are some of them to be noted here. Still, we find the descendants of saint Agasthiar in the Pothigai forest areas. They are the Kanis - the only forest living tribe of this district. Their knowledge of medicinal plants is admirably rich.

Traditional Medical Practitioners

Several experts practice, the traditional Siddha and Ayurveda systems mostly by utilising herbal resources. Experts or specialists in the treatments of *manjal kamalai, oothu kamalai,* snake bite, mad dog bite, bone fractures and *varmam* still have roaring practice. They are held in high esteem even today inspite of many institutionally trained modern and Indian Medicine doctors deployed in almost all major villages in the recent decades. These traditional specialists with all humility attribute their dramatic clinical results stating that herbs from these tracts are endowed with greater potency and eco friendlyness. The utilisation of the diversity of rural biological resources has attained its perfection in this district.

Veterinary Medicines

Similar to flora, the fauna of these forests is also rich, several herbivorus, such as Elephant, Bison, Antler, Hare, etc., are sustained in this harmonious eco system. According to traditional sayings ***Food is medicine and Medicine is food***. This principle can also be applied here and these food plants may act as medicines to the wild animals during their illness, besides their food values. There is sizeable folklore on animals, carnivores as well as herbivores resorting to such self treatment by instinct. The elephant eating ***Diospysos melanoxylon root***, (Chinna Pazhingukai-Tamil) when it gets a bout of diarrhoea, the envenomated mangoose rooling on ***Ophiorrhiza mungos*** (Keeripurandan - Tamil) and the wild boar rubbing in ***Clssus vitiginea*** (Panadaippan - Tamil) on wounds and the cats eat grasses to expel the intestinal worms. The village traditional medical persons using the fruits of ***Diospyrus Pregreina*** (Pazhingukai - Tamil) in setting up of the broken bones of domestic cattles is a common practice in this district. These medicinal plants are available in different habitates. Besides these, several plants are being grown in public places and home yards. The botanical names, the Tamil names and the part (s) of plant used for medicinal purposes are given in tables a, b, c and d.

a. Important Medical Plants Cultivated in Gardens

Botanical name	*Tamil Name*	*Part Used.*
Adhatoda vasica (L.) Nees	ஆடாதோடை	Root,leaf
Aegle marmelos (L.) Corr. root, leaf, fruit.	வில்வம்	bark.gum,
Andrographis paniculata (Burmf.) Wall.	நிலவேம்பு	Plant
Artemisia nilagirica (Cl.) Pamp	மாசிபத்திரி	Plant
*Cassia senna L.	நிலவாரை	leaf, pod
*Catharanthus roseus (L.) G.Dorr	நித்யகல்யாணி	root, leaf.
Coleus ambonicus Lour.	ஓமவல்லி	Plant
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L.	செம்பரத்தை	flower
Ixora coccinea L.	வெட்சிப்பூ	flower
Lawsonia inermis L.	மருதோன்றி	leaf, seed
Melia azedarach L.	துலுக்காணிவேம்பு	bark, leaf

Nyctanthes arbotristis L.	பவளமல்லி	leaf.
Ocimum basillicum L.	திருநீற்றுப்பச்சை	plant, seed
Pedilanthus tithymaloides (L.)	கண்ணாடிக்கள்ளி	Latex
Rhinacanthus nasutus (L.) Kurz	நாகமல்லி	leaf, root
Saesbania sesban (L.) Merr.	கருஞ்செம்பை	flower
Tabernaemontana divaricata (L.) R.Br.	நந்தியாவட்டம்	flower
Wedelia chinensis (Osb.) Merr.	மஞ்சள்கரிசாலை	Plant.

b. Important Plants Cultivated for domestic purposes also used in medicinal preparations

Amorphophallus campanulatus (Roxb.)Bloex Dence.	சேனைக்கிழங்கு	tuber (corn)
Amorphophallus Sp.	கருணைக்கிழங்கு	tuber
Areca catechu L.	கமுகு	nut
Benincasa hispida (Thumb) Cogn.	தடியங்காய்	fruit
Borassus flabellifer L.	பனை	sap, fruit, palm sugar, palm candy
capsicum annum L.	மிளகாய்	fruit
Carica papaya L.	பப்பாளி	latex
Ceiba pentandra (L.) Gaertn.	இலவு	gum, flower
Citrus limon (L.)Buron.f.	எலுமிச்சை	fruit
Cucumis sativus L.	வெள்ளரி	seed
Curcuma longa L.	மஞ்சள்	rhizome
Delichos biflorus L.	கொள்ளு	seed
Lagenaria siceraria (Molina) Standley	சுரை	plant
Mangifera indica L.	மா	gum, bark, kernel, tender, leaf.
Momordica charantia L.	பாகல்	leaf, fruit

*Cultivated as cash crop in large scale both in irrigated and rainfed conditions.

Moringa oleifera Lam.	முருங்கை	all parts
Murraya koenigii (L.) Spreng	கருவேப்பிலை	leaf
Musa paradisiaca L.	வாழை	all parts
Phyllanthus emblica L.	நெல்லிக்காய்	fruit
Piper betel L.	வெற்றிலை	leaf
Psidium gua java L.	கொய்யா	leaf
Punica granatum L.	மாதுளை	bark, fruit rind
Raphanus sativus L.	முள்ளங்கி	root
Ricinus communis L.	ஆமணக்கு	seed oil, tender leaf
Rosa rubra Blackew.	ரோசாப்பூ	flower
Saccarum officinarum L.	கரும்பு	juice
Sesbania grandiflora (L.) Poir	அகத்தி	leaf
Tamarindus indica L.	புளி	leaf, bark
Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol	பூவரசு	bark, fruit
Vetiveria Zizanoides (L.) Nash	வெட்டிவேர்	root
Vigna munga (L.) Hepper	உளுந்து	seed
Zingiber officinale Rosc.	இஞ்சி (சுக்கு)	rhizome.

c. Important Wild Medicinal Plants in the plain lands

Abrus pracatorius L.	குன்றிமணி	root, leaf, seed
Abutilon indicum (L.) SW	துத்தி	leaf, seed, root
Acacia arabica Willd	கருவேலம்	bark, gum, flower
Acacia leucophloea Willd.	வெள்வேலம்	bark
Acalypha indica L.	குப்பைமேனி	plant
Achyranthes aspera.L.	நாயுறுவி	plant
Aerva lanata Aijuss	சிறுபீளை	plant, root
Albizzia lebbeck Benth.	வாகை	bark, seed, gum
Aloe barbadensis Mill.	சோற்றுக்கற்றாழை	plant, leaf, root dried juice
Alternanthera sessilis (L) . R.Br	பொன்னாங்கண்ணி	plant
Ammania baccifera L.	எரிசாலை	plant
Anisoemeles malabarica R.Br	பேய்த்தும்பை	leaf
Aponogeton natans (L.)	கொட்டிக்கிழங்கு	tuber

Engl.& Krause		
Argemone mexicana L.	குருக்கு,	seed, juice
Aristolochia bracteata Retz.	ஆடுதின்னாபாளை	plant
Azadiracta indica A.Juss. & Gaertn.	வேம்பு	all parts
Azima tetracantha Lam.	முள்சங்கன்	root, leaf
Barringtonia acutangula (L.)	கடப்பை	seed
Bacopa monnieri (L.)Pennell	நீர்ப்பிரமி	Plant
Boerhaavia diffusa L.	முக்கரட்டை	root
Borreria hispida (L.) K.schum	நத்தைச்சூரி	plant, seed
Calotropis gigantea (L.) R.Br. ex Ait.	எருக்கு	root, leaf, flower
Capparis sepiaria L.	கருஞ்சூரை	bark
Capparis zeylanica L.	காத்தொட்டி	leaf
Cardiospermum halica-	முடக்கற்றான் cabum L.	plant
Cassia absus L.	இடிகொள்	seed
Cassia obovata (L.)Collard	வட்டநிலவாரை	plant
Cassia auriculata L.	ஆவாரை	all parts
Centella asiatica (L.) Urban	வல்லாரை	plant
Ceropegia juncea Roxb.	புளிச்சக்கொடி	plant
Cissus quadrangularis L.	பிரண்டை	leaf, stem
Cissus setosa Roxb.	புளிநரளை	tuber
Citrullus colocynthis	வரிக்கும்மட்டி	root, fruit schrad
Clerodendron inerme	பீச்சங்கன்	leaf, root
Clerodendron phlomidis L.f	தழுதாழை	leaf, root
Clitoria ternatea L.	காக்கரட்டான்	plant
Coccinia indica W. & A.	கோவை	leaf
Crataeva nurvala Buch - Ham.	மாவலிங்கம்	bark
Cryptocoryne spiralis Fisch	ஆற்று அதிவிடயம்	rhizome
Cynodon dactylon (L.)Pers.	அருகன்புல்	plant
Cyperus rotundus L.	கோரைக்கிழங்கு	tuber
Datura metal L.	ஊமத்தை	leaf, seed
Dipteracanthus patula Jacq.	கோடகசாலை	plant
Dodonaea viscosa L.	விராலி	leaf
Eclipta alba Hassk.	கரிசாலை	plant

Enicostemma axillare (Lam.) Raynal	வெள்ளருகு	plant
Euphorbia ahtiquorum L.	சதுரக்கள்ளி	latex
Euphorbia hirta L.	அம்மான்பச்சரிசி	plant
Euphorbia tortilis Rottl	திருகுக்கள்ளி	latex
Evolvulus alsinoides L.	விஷ்ணுகாந்தி	plant
Ficus benghalensis L.	ஆல்	bark, latex
Ficus religiosa L.	அரசு	bark
Gisekia pharnaceoides L.	மணலிக்கீரை	plant
Gloriosa superba L.	கலப்பைக்கிழங்கு	rhizome
Gynandropsis pentaphylla DC. (L.) Briquet	தைவேளை	plant
Hedyotis puberula (G.Don.) Arn.	இம்பூரல்	plant
Hybanthus enneaspermus (L.)F.V.Muell	ஓரிதழ்தாமரை	plant
Hygrophila auriculata (Schum.)Heine	நீர்முள்ளி	plant
Imperata cylindrica (L.) P.Beauv	தர்ப்பை	root
Indigofera aspalathoides Vahl.DC.	சிவனார்வேம்பு	plant
Indigofera tinctoria Linn.	நீலி	plant
Ipomoea aquatica Forsk.	வள்ளைக்கொடி	leaf
Jatropha curcas L.	காட்டாமணக்கு	twig, seed
Jatropha glandulifera Roxb.	உரலமணக்கு	sap
Kirganelia reticulata (Poir.) Baill	கரும்பூலாத்தி	fruit
Leptadenia reticulata W. & A	பாலைக்கொடி	root, leaf
Leucas aspera Spreng.	தும்பை	plant
Melothria maderaspatrana (L.)Cogn.	முசுமுசுக்கை	plant
Merremia tridentata Haller f	முதியார்கூந்தல்	plant
Mimosa pudica L.	தொட்டால்வாடி	plant
Mollugo cerviana Ser.	பற்படாகம்	plant
Mollugo lotoides (L.) O.Kuntze	சிறுசெருப்படி	plant

Mollugo oppositifolia L.	கச்சந்தராய்	plant
Monochoria vaginalis (Burm. f.)	கருங்குவளை Pres.	plant
Morinda tinctoria Roxb.	நுணா	leaf
Nelumbo nucifera Gaertn.	தாமரை(வெள்ளை, சிவப்பு)	flower, leaf
Notonia grandiflora Wall.	முயல்காதிலை	leaf, root
Nymphaea nouchali Burm f.	செவ்வல்லி	flower, root
Nymphaea pubescens willd.	அல்லி	flower, root
Nyphoides hydrophylla (Lour.) Ktze	நாட்டுத்தகரம்	plant
Nymphoides indicum (L.) O.ktze.	நாட்டுத்தகரம்	plant
Ocimum americanum L.	கஞ்சாங்கோரை	plant
Ocimum tenuiflorum L.	துளசி	plant
Oxystelma secamone (L.) Karst.	ஊசிப்பாலைroot	
Pedalium murex L.	ஆனை நெருஞ்சில்	fruit
Pentatropis capensis (L.f.) Bullock	உப்பிலாங்கொடி	herb
Pergularia daemia (Forsk.) Chior.	வேலிபருத்தி	plant
Phyla nodiflora (L.) Greene	பொடுதலை	herb
Phyllanthus amarus Schum.&Thonn.	கீழாநெல்லி	plant
Phyllanthus maderas-patensis L.	மேலாநெல்லி	plant
Physalis minima L.	சுடக்குத்தக்காளி	plant
Pistia stratiotes L.	குளிர்தாமரை	plant
Plumbago zeylanica L.	கொடுவேரி	root
Polycarpaea corymbosa (L.)lam	நிலச்சடைச்சி	plant
Polygala chinensis L.	சிறியாநங்கை	plant
Polygonum glabrum Willd	ஆற்றலரி	root
Pongamia pinnata (L.) Pierre	புங்கம்	, bark, root, seed
Portulaca oleracea L.	பருப்புக்கீரை	plant
Prosopis cineraria (L.)Oruce	வன்னி	bark, leaf.

Rivea hypocrateriformls (Delr.) Choisy	முசுட்டை	leaf
Salvadora persica L.	களர்வாகை	root, bark, leaf
Scilla hyacinthina (Roth.) Macbride	சிறுநரிவெஙகாயம்	bulb.
Sida acuta Burm. f.	அரிவாள்மனைப்பூண் டு	root, leaf
Sida cordifolia L.	வெள்ளைகுறுந்தொட்டி	root, leaf
Solanum nigrum L.	மணித்தக்காளி	plant
Solanum surattense Burm.f.	கண்டங்க்த்திரி	plant, root
Solanum trilobatum L.	தூதுவளை	plant
Sphaeranthus amarnathoides	சிவகரந்தை	plant
Sphearanthus indicus L.	கொட்டைக்கரந்தை	plant
Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeel	நாவல்	bark, seed
Tephrosia purpurea (L.)Pers.	கொழுஞ்சி	plant
Tephrosia spinosa (L.f.)Pers.	முட்காய்வேளை	plant
Terminalia arjuna (Roxb. exDC.)Wt. &Arn.	மருதம்	bark, leaf
Tinospora cordifolida (Willd.) Hk.f.& Th.	சீந்தில்	stem
Tragia cannabina L.f.	கருப்புக்காஞ்சொரி	root
Trapa natans L.	பன்றிமோந்தான்	fruit
Trianthema decandra L.	சாரணைவேர்	root
Trichodesma indicum (L.) Lehm	கவிழ்தும்பை	plant
Tridax procumbens L.	கிணற்றடிபூண்டு	plant
Triumfetta rotundifolia Lam.	கருப்புகுறுந்தொட்டி	root
Typha angustata Bory Chaub	சம்பு	root
Urginea indica (Roxb.) Kunth.	நரிவெங்காயம்	bulb
Vernonia cinerea (L.) Less.	நெய்சிட்டி	plant
Vicoa indica (L.) DC	மூக்குத்திப்பூ	plant
Vitex negundo L.	நொச்சி	leaf, root, bark
Wattakaka volublis (L.f) stap f.	பெருங்குறிஞ்சா	plant

Zizyphus nummularia (Burm.f.) Wt. & Arn.	இலந்தை	fruit, leaf
Zornia gibbosa Span.	பொரிகரப்பான்தழை	plant

d) **Important Medicinal Plants of Forest Source**

Acacia caesia Willd.	வெள்ளிண்டு	bark, leaf
Acacia Sundra DC.	கருங்காலி	wood
Acacia pennata (L.)Willd.	காரிண்டு	bark,leaf
Acalypha fruticosa Forssk	சிறுசின்னி	leaf, root
Acronychia pedunculata (L.)Miq.	முட்டைநாரி	bark
Adenia hondala (Gaertn.) de Wilde	மிதப்பன்கிழங்கு	tuber
Aglaia elaeagnoidea (Juss) Benth.	சுக்ளா	bark, seed.
Ailanthus excelsa Roxb	பெருமரம்	bark
Alangium Salvifolium (L.F.)Wang.	அழிஞ்சில்	bark, seed
Albizia amara (Roxb.)Boiv.	உசில்	leaf
Albizia odoratissima (L.F.) Benth.	சிலவாகை	bark
Alstonia scholaris (L.)R.Br.	எழிலைப்பாலை	bark
Anamirta cocculus (L.)Wt. & Arn.	பேன்கொட்டை	fruit
Anisochilus Carnosus (L.F.) Wall	புழுக்கம்பட்டை	root, bark.
Anogeissus latifolia (Roxb.ex. DC)Wall	வெக்காலி	bark
Antiaris toxicaria Lesch.	நெட்டவில்	bark, latex
Aphanamixis Polystachya (Wall,)Parker	ரோகிதப்பட்டை	bark
Argyreia nervosa (Burm.F) Boj	கடற்பாலை	leaf, root.
Arisaema leschenaultii Bl.	காட்டுக்கருணை	tuber
Aristolochia indica L.	கருடக்கொடி	all parts.
Aristolochia tagala cham.	பெரும்கருடக்கொடி	all parts
Asparagus racemosus Willd.	தண்ணீர்விட்டான்	root
Atalantia monophylla (Roxb.)DC	காட்டு எலுமிச்சை	leaf, fruit

Bambusa arundinacea (Retz.)Roxb.	மூங்கில்	leaf, grain
Barleria prionitis L.	செம்முள்ளி	root
Bauhinia racemosa Lam.	ஆத்தி	bark
Begonia floccifera Bedd.	கல்தாமரை	plant
Bischofia javanica Bl.	ரோமவிருட்சம்	bark
Bombax ceilba L.	முள்ளிலவு	gum
Breynia retusa (Dennst.) Alst.	பவளப்பூலா	leaf
Buchanania axillaris(Desr.) Ramam	சாரப்பருப்பு	seed
Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub.	பலாசு	seed, gum
Cadaba fruticosa (L.)Druce	விழுதி	leaf
Calamus thwaitesii Becc.	பிரம்பு	root
Callicarpa tomentosa (L.) Murray	வெற்றிலைப்பட்டை	bark
Calophyllum apetalum Willd	சுரபின்னை	seed
Calophyllum inophyllum L.	பின்னை	seed
Calycopteris floribunda Lam.	புல்லாணி	leaf
Canarium strictum Roxb.	கருங்குங்லியம்	gum
Canna indica L.	கானாவாழை	rhizome
Canthium dicoccum (Gaertm.)Teys. & Binn.	ஈர்க்குலி	leaf
Careya arborea Roxb.	ஆய்மா	bark
Carissa congesta Wt.	களாக்காய்	fruit.
Carmona retusa (Vahl.)Mas.	குருவி வெற்றிலை	leaf
Cassia fistula L.	சரக்கொன்றை	bark, fruit
Cassine glauca (Rottb.) O.Ktze.	கருக்காலி	leaf.
Celastrus paniculatus Willd.	வாலுழுவை	seed
Cinnamomum malabatrum (Burm.F.)Bl.	மலைஇலவங்கப்பட்டை	bark, leaf
Cinnamomum Zeylanicum Bl.	இலவங்கப்பட்டை	bark, leaf
Clerodendrum serratum (L.) Moon.	சிறுதேக்கு	root

Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels	கட்டுக்கொடி	plant
Cochlospermum religiosum (L.)Alst.	கோங்கிலவு	gum
Corallocarpus epigaeus . Hk.F	கொல்லங்கிழங்கு	tuber
Cordia obliqua Willd.	நறுவிலி	bark
Coscinium fenestratum (Gaertn.)Colebr.	மஞ்சள்கொடி	stem
Costus Speciosus (Koen.) Sm.	நாட்டுக்கோஷ்டம்	Tuber
Cryptolepis buchanani R. and S	நாகதாளிகொடி	root
Curculigo orchioides Gaertn	நிலப்பனை	root
Cycas circinalis L.	மதனப்பூ	flower
Cyclea peltata (Lam.)HK f. & Thoms.	சிறுபாதவள்ளி	plant
Cymbopogon flexuosus Wats.	சுக்குநாரி	leaf
Dendrophthoe falcata Kurz.	புல்லுருவி	plant
Dichrostachys cinerea (L.) Wt.& Arn	விடத்தலை	leaf, wood
Dioscorea bubifera L.	காய்வள்ளி	tuber
Diospyrus, malabarica (Desr.)Kostel	பளிங்குக்காய்	fruit
Diospyrus melanoxylon Roxb.	சின்னபாரிங்கு	fruit
Drosera peltata (L.) Willd.	அழுகண்ணி	plant
Elephantopus seaber L.	ஆணைச்சுவடி	plant
Embelia ribes Burm.f.	வாய்விளங்கம்	fruit
Entada pursaetha DC	தெள்ளு	seed
Erythroxylum monogynum Roxb.	செம்மணத்தி	wood
Euphorbia nivulia Buch.	மாந்தக்கள்ளி	leaf, latex
Ficus racemosa L.	அத்தி	fruit
Garcinia gummigutta (L.) Robs.	கோடம்புளி	fruit
Gardenia resinifera Roth.	டிக்காமல்லி	gum resin
Glycosmis pentaphylla DC.	கொஞ்சி	plant

Gmelina arborea Roxb.	பெருங்குமிழ்	root
Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R.Br.	சிறுகுறிஞ்சான்	leaf
Helictres isora L.	வலம்புரிக்காய்	fruit
Hemidesmus indicus (L.) Schult	நன்னாரி	root
Heracleum rigens Wall	சிற்றேலம்	fruit
Hiptage benghalensis (L.) Kurz	குருக்கத்தி	flower
Holoptelia integrifolia (Roxb.) Planch	அவில்	bark
Hydnocarpus pentandra (Buch-Ham)	நீரடிமுத்து	seed
Leea indica (Burm.f.)Merr.	ஓட்டைநாளி	root
Limonia alata W & A.	காட்டுநாரத்தை	root,fruit
Lobelia nicotianaefolia Roxb. ex R & S	காட்டுப்புகையிலை	leaf
Madhuca Pongifolia (Koen.) Macbr.	இலுப்பை	bark,seed
Mallotus philippinensis (L.) Muell.	கமேலா	fruit
Melia dubia Cav.	மலைவேம்பு	bark, leaf
Memecylon umbellatum Burm.f.	காயாம்பூ	bark, leaf
Mesua ferrea L.	நாங்கு	flower,seed
Michelia champaca L.	செண்பகம்	flower
Mucuna pruriens (L.)DC	பூனைக்காலி	seed
Murraya paniculata (L.) Jack	கவுண்டன் பச்சிலை	leaf
Mussaenda freondosa L.	வெள்ளியிலை	flower
Myristica malabarica Lam.	காட்டுசாதிக்காய்	fruit
Naringi crenulata (Roxb.)	மகாவில்வம்	root,leaf
Nilgirianthus heyneanus (Nees)Bremek	கருங்குறிஞ்சி	root
Ocimum gratissimum L.	இராமதுளசி	plant
Ophiorrhiza mungos L.	கீரிப்புரண்டான்	plant
Oxalis corniculata L.	புளியாரை	plant

Pachygone ovata (Poi.)Mk.F.	பெருங்கட்டுக்கொடி	plant
Pavonia Odorata Willd	பேராமுட்டி	root
Pepromia tetraphylla Mk.& Arn.	வனப்பிரமி	plant
Phyllanthus emblica L.	நெல்லி	fruit
Phyllanthus urinaria L.	செங்கீழாநெல்லி	plant
Piper trioicum Roxb.	காட்டுமிளகு	fruit, root
Pittosporum floribundum Wt. & Arn.	காய்ச்சப்ட்டை	seed
Plumbago zeylanica L.	வெண்கொடுவேரி	root
Pogostemon heyneanus Benth	பச்சை	leaf
Pongamia Pinnata)L.) Pierre	புங்கு	bark,seed
Premna tomentosa Willd.	பிடங்குநாரி	leaf
Pseudarthria viscida (L.).மூ Wt.&Arn	விலை	root
Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.	வேங்கை	wood,gum
Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Benth.	அமல்பொரி	root
Rubia cordifolia L.	மஞ்சிட்டி	root
Salacia oblonga Wall	பொன்குறண்டி	root
Santalum album L.	சந்தனம்	wood
Sapindus laurifolia Vahl.	புங்கங்காய்	fruit
Schleichera oleosa (Lour.) Oken.	பூவன்	fruit
Securinega virosa (Roxb.ex Willd.)Baill.	வெண்பூலா	leaf
Semicarpus anacardium L.F.	சேராங்கொட்டை	nut
Sida rhombifolia L.	குருந்தொட்டி	root
Smilax zeylanica L.	கருவிலாஞ்சிக்குடம்	root
Spondias pinnata (L.F.)Kurz	மரிமா	fruit
Stephania japonica (Thunb.) Miers	ஆகாசக்கருடன்	,tuber
Stereospermum tetragono-lobum	பாதிரி	root
Strychnos nuxc-vomica L.	எட்டி	seed

Strychnos potatorum L.	தேற்றான்	seed
Synplocos cochinchinensis (Lour.) S.Moore	பாச்சோற்றி	bark
Tarenna asiatica (L.)OKtze.	வெள்ளைப்பாவட்டை	leaf
Terminalia bellirica (Gaertn) Roxb.	தான்றி	fruit
Terminalia chebula Retz.	கடுக்காய்	fruit
Thottea Siliquosa (Lam.) D.Hou	குறவன்கண்டமூலி	plant
Toddalia asiatica (L.) Lam.	மிளகரணை	root
Trichopus zeylanicus Gaertn.	ஆரோக்கியப்பச்சை	plant
Tragia involucrata L.	காஞ்சொரி	root
Tylophora india (Burm.f.) Merr.	நஞ்சறுப்பான்	leaf
Vanda tessellata (Roxb.)Hk.	மரவாழை	root
Vateria indica L.	வெள்ளைப்பயினி	resin
Vebtilago maderaspatana Gaertn.	வேம்பாடம்	root
Waqsura trifolia (A.Juss.). Harms	வால்சுரை	bark,seed
Waltheria indica L.	குருதியடக்கி	root
Wrightia tinctoria R.Br.	வெட்பாலை	leaf, bark
Zizyphus xylopyrus (Retz.) Willd.	கொட்ட இலந்தை	fruit

Indian Medical Association, (IMA) Tirunelveli Branch

The Indian Medical Association was formed in December 1928 at Calcutta, and its District Branch in Tirunelveli district was formed in the year 1929. This Voluntary Organisation is a representative body of Medical Practitioners. The headquarters of IMA was later shifted to New Delhi In January 1949.

The State Branch of IMA was formed in the year 1943. Tirunelveli District Branch along with other Branches at Madras, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, etc., functioned in their respective locality. The first President of the Tirunelveli District Branch was Lt.Col. Shastri. who was the then District Medical Officer.

In order to share the latest advancements, in medical science, monthly meetings are arranged, where the specialist doctors address on various topics in medical sciences. In addition, continuous medical programmes are also arranged, so that, the members can update their knowledge on the recent advancements in medicine.

To improve the quality of work, IMA Academy of Medical Specialists, a Specialists Wing of IMA, was formed in the year 1984. The membership of this wing is restricted to those who possess post-graduate degree. The members are admitted as Fellows of the Academy and are awarded the Degree of Fellow of Academy of Medical Specialists, Viz., FIAMS. Any State having 100 members or more will have a State Chapter of FIAMS. Tamilnadu has a State Chapter along with eleven other States in the Country. The members of the Branch take an active part in the implementation of National Health Programmes charted out by the IMA., headquarters, New Delhi. Moreover, the IMA members help the government in executing the rehabilitation measures undertaken by the government at times of natural calamities.

Tirunelveli was the venue for the 33rd State Medical Conference organised in November 1979. In this district, five more IMA branches, which are the offshoot of the main Tirunelveli IMA branch function in Courtallam, Sankarankoil, Ambasamudram, Puliyankudi and Valliyoor.

These branches, apart from rendering services for the benefit of its members in the respective areas, also organise regular medical education programmes by renowned experts from all over Tamil Nadu and conduct medical camps, immunisation campaigns, etc., in the district. IMA, Sankarankoil branch has 57 members on its roll. It conducts free medical camps, detection camps on cancer, diabetic, hypertension and tuberculosis. Camps on AIDS awareness, sanitation and environmental awareness, etc., are also conducted by this branch.[45]

The Puliangudi Branch of IMA, has 10 single and 8 couple doctors as its members.[46] The Tirunelveli, IMA has 214 members, of whom 178 are single members, 17 couple members and two life members.[47]

Homeopathic Medical Association - Tirunelveli

In the absence of any cohesive active body among the Homoepathic Medical Practitioners in this area, it was considered necessary to organise the association immediately in the adhoc meeting held on 20th June 1993 at Palayamkottai. a general body meeting of Homeopathic Medical Practitioners was called on 18th July 1993, In which the office bearers of the Association were selected.[48] The main aim of this Association is to exchange the ideas and experiences of individual practitioners; to form a net work fellowship and goodwill among the practitioners to promote homoeopathic system of medicine, especially in this area, in the proper and improved way with latest advancements: to conduct the refresher courses by inviting the seniors and well experienced doctors in that field; to conduct seminars at the district level; and to conduct free medical awareness camps for the public about the efficiency of this system of medicine. The Association now has 29 members.

Family Welfare Programme

As a Welfare State, India is implementing the family welfare programme including population control and maternity and child health as a centrally sponsored scheme from 1951. The programme was launched during the First Plan Period (1951-55) with a modest outlay of 65 lakh. Though the amount specified on this initially was only small, in the Eighth Plan a huge amount of Rs.1500 crores is spent for this. However, inspite of all the efforts put in by the government and other agencies during the past four decades, the objectives of this plan could not be successfully achieved as shown by the birth rate which was 41/1000 in 1951 and 36.9 in 1971 came down only to 26.4/1000 in 1982. the death rate has come down from 27.4/1000 in 1951 to 14.9 in 1976 and 10.2 in 1982.[49]

This programme was solely run by the government upto 1968. From that year, government began to involve non governmental agencies, facilities were provided at peripheral level. Rural and Urban Family Welfare Centres were established. Staff were posted to motivate the people at their door steps for adopting the family welfare methods. In this district, Vasectomy Compaigns were launched during 1972-73. Tubectomy cases were increased from 1976-77. The latest technique in family planning programme. viz., Laparascopic sterilization method was introduced in 1982-83. People prefer this method rather than any other traditional methods as evidenced by the fact that more than 70 per cent of the total sterilizations are Laprascopic.

Adoption of temporary methods, such as, intra uterine device (IUD), distribution of candoms and oral pills were introduced in the district; during 1977-78. IUD services gained popularity among the people of the district since 1966-67. Distribution of candoms is also in vogue in the district since 1970-71.

On an average about 15,000 sterilisations are being done in the district every year. 2000 IUD insertions, 13000 candoms and 8000 oral pill users are being accounted in a year. As regards this district, this programme is implemented through 19 Rural Family Welfare Centres, nine Urban Family Welfare Centres and eight Urban Health Posts. The Urban Family Welfare Centres are the Government Hospitals. There are also 385 Health Sub-Centres functioning in the district. Through which, health care delivery services including maternity and child health, nutrition and family welfare activities are carried out in the district.

Functions of the District Family Welfare Bureau

The District Family Welfare Bureau is headed by a Civil Surgeon in the cadre of Deputy Director of Medical and Rural Health Services

and Family Welfare. He is assisted by the Mass Education and Information Officer, Administrative Officer, Statistical Assistant, and other staff. The programme is implemented through Rural Family Welfare Centres, Urban Family Welfare Centres, Post - Partum Centres, and Government Hospitals, functioning in the district under the supervision of the Deputy Director of Health Services and Family Welfare.

Through cultural programmes, hoardings, wall paintings, printing of posters, booklets, pamphlets and folders, seminars, leader camps, the Mass Education and Information Officer, assisted by the District Extension Officer, propagates the programme. Through the Cinema Unit, attached to this bureau, films which could influence the people to adopt family planning are screened.

The supply in respect of contraceptives such as Nirodh, Oral pills, Copper Tube, is made through this bureau. Certain drugs, are also re-distributed through this bureau, to the Rural Family Welfare Centres, Post-Partum Centres and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Centres.

Approval of private nursing homes for doing sterilisation operations and IUD insertions is being done by the Deputy Director. Payment of reimbursement amount of compensation to the acceptors is also made by this bureau. There are 34 private approved nursing homes functioning in this district, which receive grants (compensation) from the government.

Vasectemy and Tubectomy are being performed in all taluk hospitals, non-taluk hospitals and certain primary health centres which have operation theatre facilities. Sterilisation operations are done in the district in the government hospitals, Tenkasi, Sengottai, Kadayanallur, Sankarankoil, Ambasamudram, Cheranmahadevi, Melapalayam, Nanguneri and Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Palayamkottai, Primary Health Contres, Alangulam, Kadayam, Tisayanvilai, Vadakkankulam, and Karivalamvanda-nallur. Compensation amount @ Rs.130/- for those who undergo Vasoctomy and @ Rs.160/- for those who undergo tubectomy surgeries are paid by the government.

A new method of sterilisation called Laparascopic Sterilisation has been introduced in the district since 1982. About 70 percent women prefer this new method. Laparascopic camps are being arranged every month in the government hospitals and primary health centres in the district.

Another temporary method of contraception to promote spacing of children, which is popular in the district is Intra Uterine Device (IUD). The IUD services are available in all the government medical institutions, including the health sub-centres. Copper 'T' is being used in this device.

Oral pills are supplied to the mother at their door steps through the field staff. Thirteen cycles are being issued to one eligible mother in a year and 72 pieces of candoms are being issued to a regular user per year at the rate of six per month.

All India Hospital, Post Partum Progrmme at District/Sub-District level Hospitals

To provide maternal and child health and family welfare services in rural and urban areas and to bring an overall improvement in the health status of the mothers and infants, this programme has been started. One district level post partum centre is attached to Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital and four sub district level post-partum centres attached with the government hospitals are functioning.

To supplement the small family norm, medical termination of pregnancy is legally approved and this has been performed by all the government hospitals, and primary health centres. In the district nine government hospitals and sixteen private nursing homes have facilities to perform the MTP.

The untrained doctors from various institutions are being trained in the performance of MTP and other family welfare surgeries, at the teaching institutions for 15 days. The Women Health Visitors and Village Health Nurses are also given training in IUD insertions and oral pill. administration.

The family welfare department also conducted surveys for assessing the birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate, and maternal mortality rate between 1987 - 1991 and the findings of the survey are furnished below:

Rate / Year	*1987*	*1990*	*1991*
Birth Rate	22.3	20.8	20.2
Death Rate	6.4	6.3	6.1
Infant Mortality Rate	62.0	44.7	46.3
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.4	1.5	1.9
Age at Marriage:			
Female	20.0	20.04	23.0
Male	–	25.2	26.0
Average Birth Weight of a Child	2.8	2.8	2.9

The list of medical institutions in which the family welfare programme is being executed and the family welfare achievements in the district are given below:-

The list of Rural & Urban Family Welfare Centres and their Location.

Total number of Rural Family Welfare Centres.	19
Total number of Urban Family Welfare Centres.	9
Total number of Urban Health Post	8

Rural Family Welfare Centres

Government Primary Health Centre, Alangulam, Chokampatti, Elathur, Kadayam, Karivalamvandanallur,Kurivikulam, Mukkoodal, Munanjipatti, Pathamadai, Reddiarpatti, Sendamaram, Pavoorchatram, Tirukkurangudi, Tisayanvilai, Ukkirankottai, Vadakaraikilpidagai, Vadakkankulam, Vairavikulam, and Vasudevanallur.

Urban Family Welfare Centres.

Government Hospital,Ambasamudram, Cheranmahadevi, Melapalayam, Kadayanallur, Sankarankoil, Sengottai, Tenkasi, and Government Dispensary, Puliangudi and Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital,Tirunelveli.

Urban Health Posts in Municipalities.

Tirunelveli Municipality.

Pettai, Palaya Pettai, Pattapathu, Saliar Street, and Meenakshipuram.

Palayamkottai Municipality.

Kokkirakulam and Samathanapuram.

Melapalayam Municipality

Melapalayam.

Approved Private Nursing Homes

1. A.L. Ananthanarayana Memorial Hospital, Tenkasi
2. Annai Nursing Home, Tenkasi
3. Annai Velankanni Nursing Home,Palayamkottai
4. Indira Nursing Home, Tirunelveli
5. Kanthimathi Nursing Home, Tirunelveli
6. Krishna Nursing Home, Palayamkottai
7. Lakshmi Nursing Home, Ambasamudram

8. Lakshmi Nursing Home, Tirunelveli
9. Pushpalatha Nursing Home, Palayamkottai
10. Saradha Nursing Home, Sengottai
11. Shanthithiruvan Nursing Home, Sengottai
12. Seethalakshmi Nursing Home, Ambasamudram
13. R.S.P. Nursing Home, Tirunelveli
14. St. Joseph Nursing Home, Palayamkottai
15. Madura Coats Hospital, Vikramasingapuram.
16. Subramaniam Nursing Home, Tirunelveli
17. Silvia Moses Nursing Home, Vannarpettai
18. Selvam Nursing Home, Melapalayam
19. Santhi Nursing Home, Tisayanvilai
20. Parvathy Nursing Home, Kalakkad
21. Singampatti Garden Hospital, Mancholai
22. Mahalakshmi Nursing Home, Surandai
23. Priya Nursing Home, Surandai
24. Vivek Nursing Home, Panagudi
25. Priya Nursing Home, Pavoorchatram
26. Paramasugasalai, Dhonavur
27. Rukmani Nursing Home, Kadayanallur
28. Kothai Nursing Home, Surandai
29. Eswari Nursing Home, Valliyoor
30. Sumupriya Nursing Home, Sankaranagar
31. Rajam Nursing Home, Sengottai
32. Lakshmi Nursing Home, Valliyoor
33. Srinivasa Nursing Home, Sengottai
34. Bethel Nursing Home, Tirunelveli.

Family Welfare Performance - year-wise from inception

Year	*Vasectomy*	*Tubectomy*	*Laparascopy*	*IUD*
1959-60	13	3	–	–
1960-61	714	80	–	–
1961-62	949	72	–	–
1962-63	836	146	–	–
1963-64	467	52	–	–
1964-65	383	44	–	

1965-66	14923	46	–	–
1966-67	10016	46133	–	26
1967-68	3274	183	–	111
1968-69	1317	288	–	595
1969-70	1721	236	–	2471
1970-71	1923	293	–	3864
1971-72	4155	1352	–	1958
1972-73	16688	1195	–	701
1973-74	1392	1367	–	918
1974-75	3298	1968	–	1127
1975-76	4835	3155	–	814
1976-77	17674	6987	–	918
1977-78	382	2116	–	951
1978-79	1455	3920	–	1045
1979-80	281	3137	–	975
1980-81	571	3964	–	1015
1981-82	287	4233	–	1097
1982-83	368	4373	3981	1286
1983-84	737	3482	15929	1333
1984-85	503	2865	5348	1737
1985-86	574	4303	14729	5002
1986-87	510	7209	11629	48034
1987-88	562	7049	10758	32247
1988-89	175	4220	9559	26670
1989-90	150	4279	10457	19319
1990-91	201	4641	10775	14731
1991-92	114	4374	10510	20808
1992-93	101	4749	10412	21404

Total number of eligible couples and protected couples in the district for the years. 1984-1994 is furnished below:[50]

Year	Population couples	No.of eligible protected	Couples
1984-85	3956659	587580	66121
1985-86	3828012	580281	76605
1986-87	2484278	376120	57467

1987-88	2517088	396027	103565
1988-89	2523906	362656	100585
1989-90	2590189	378015	125562
1990-91	2579589	374178	138166
1991-92	2532836	384651	152374
1992-93	2633567	394602	167759
1993-94	2661742	402025	175920

Maternity and Child Welfare Services

Women in child bearing age and children below 15 years, form above 60 percent of the State population. It is the policy of the government to give top priority to maternity and child health services, to cover this vulnerable cross section of the population. Maternity and child health services comprise of ante-natal, intra-natal and post-school and school health care programme to the children, so as to minimise sickness among children under 16 years.

Maternity and child health services in the rural areas are rendered through a close network of primary health centres and their sub-centres. In urban areas, the concerned Medical Officers of the general hospitals, and Municipal Health Officers guide and conduct the entire maternity and child health services in their respective areas.

The health sub-centre, the peripheral most unit established at the village level to provide health care to the rural population. Health sub-centres are established and maintained at the rate of one health sub-centre for every 3000 population in hilly, tribal and difficult terrain areas and one for every 5000 population in other areas. These health sub-centres provide out-reach services to the population. Each health sub centre is provided with a Village Health Nurse, who is assisted by a Female Attendant. In the district, 365 health sub-centres have been established and functioning in the district.

List of Health Sub-Centres and their location in each block is as follows:-

I. Alangulam Block - 21

1. Arunthanthiar Colony, 2.Natham, 3.Nallur, 4.Naranthai, 5.Kuruvankottai 6.Veeranam, 7.Narayanapuram, 8.Karuvantha, 9.Parankuntrapuram, 10.Kurippankulam, 11.Uthumalai,12. Kaclakalangal, 13.Melamaruthappapuram, 14.Marukkalangulam, 15. Kurichanpatti, 16. Palapathraramapuram, 17.Nettur, 18. Venkadeswarapuram, 19. Kavalakurichi, 20. K.Navaneethakrishna puram, and 21. Ayyanarkulam.

II. Kadayanallur Block - 12

1.Chockampatti,2.Thirikkadapuram,3.Kasitharmam, 4.Punniahpuram,5. Kambanari, 6.Sundaresapuram, 7.Kulayanari, 8.Poigai, 9.Oormelalagian, 10.Neduvayal, 11.Nainaragaram, 12. Duraisamiapuram.

III. Sengottai Block - 12

1.Seevanallur, 2.Atchampudur - East, 3.Atchampudur -West 4. Kilangadu,5. S.V. Karai- East, 6. S.V. Karai - West,7. Ayikudi - East, 8. Ayikudi - West, 9. Puliarai, 10. Kattalaikudiyiruppu, 11.Therkkumedu,12. Poolankudiyiruppu.

IV. Kadayam Block - 17

1. South Kadayam, 2. Pulavanoor, 3. Pottalpudur - I,4. Pottalpudur - II, 5. Pappankulam, 6. Adaichani,7. Ravanasamudram 8. Alwarkurichi, 9. Ambur, 10 Kadayanipuram, 11. Karuthapillaiyur 12. Rajanagapuram, 13. Vaikkalpatti,14. Vengadampatty,15. Pungampatti,16. Iynthamkattalai, 17. A.P. Nadanoor.

V. Sankarankoil Block - 19

1. Karivalamvandanallur, 2. Perumbathur, 3. Pulampatti, 4. Punnaivanaperi, 5. Periyur, 6 Vadakkupudur, 7. Thalavaipuram 8. Madathupatti, 9. Thiruvettanallur, 10. Ariyanayagipuram, 11. Veerasigamani,12. K.V.Alangulam, 13. Veppankulam, 14. Subbulapuram, 15. Paruvagudi, 16. Panaiyur, 17. Reddiarpatti, 18. Perumalpatti, 19. Chenthattiapuram.

VI. Kuruvikulam Block - 21.

1. Kuruvikulam, 2. Ganapathipatti, 3. Kurinchakulam 4. Sevalkulam, 5. Kalingapatti, 6. Karisathan, 7. Chatrapatti, 8. Thiruvenkadam, 9. Alamonayakkapatty,10. Perumkettur,11. Ilayarasanendal,12. Ayyaneri. 13. Old Appaneri, 14. Pillayarnatham, 15. Maiparai, 16. Varaganoor, 17. Sayamalai, 18. Nalandula, 19. Pazhankottai, 20. Thonukal, and 21. Alaganeri.

VII Pappakudi Block - 16

1.Pappakudi, 2.Pallakkalpudukudi, 3.Sattupathu,4. Anainthanadarpatti, 5. North Ariyanayagipram, 6. Chenkulam, 7. Athalanallur, 8. Arikesanallur, 9. Ambethkar Colony, 10. Mukkudal, 11. Maruthaputhur,12. Puthupatti,13. Ramnagar, 14. Odaimarichan, 15. Kaliankulam, 16. Mailapuram.

VIII. Nangunari Block - 23

1.Sinthamani, 2.Ramanari, 3.Koodankulam, 4. Kariyandi, 5.North Vijayanarayanam, 6.Moolaikaripatti, 7.Paruthipadu, 8.Karuppukatty,

9.Singaneri, 10.Shonbagaramanallur, 11.Ambalam 12.Patharpuram, 13.Thalabathisamudram, 14.Nanguneri, 15.Thambupuram, 16.Panangulam, 17.Moondradaippu, 18.Ittamozhi, 19.Alagiapuram, 20.Andankulam, 21.North Pappankulam, 22.Parappadi, 23.Sivanthiyapuram.

IX Cheranmahadevi Block -19

1.Gandhinagar 2.Chockalingapuram. 3.Pirancheri. 4.Gopalasamudram 5.Karisoclnthamangalam 6.Karisalpatti 7. Bothathankudiyiruppu. 8.Kooniyur 9.Sunnambukkal 10. Kilakkulam 11.Veeravanallur 12.Nainar Colony 13. Alagappapuram 14.Karukurichi 15.Kallidaikurichi - I.16. Kallidaikurichi - II 17.Kallidaikurichi - III 18. Kalliduikurichi - IV 19.Kallidaikurichi - V.

X. Keelapavoor Block - 26

1.Keelapaveer East, 2. Keelapavoor West, 3. Keelapavoor South 4. Kulasekarapatti, 5.Kurumbalauori, 6. Poolangulam, 7. Pethanadapatti 8. Avudayanoor, 9. Modiyanur,10. V.T.N. Patty, 11. Chennatha Pudukulam, 12. Nattar patti, 13. Sivandanur, 14. Melamogananapuram 15. V.K.Pudur, 16. Kalunerkulam,17. Karumbanoor, 18. Thuthikulam, 19.Rajaopalapori,20. Muthukrishnapari,21. Surandai Kaspa,22. Molapovoor,23. Sivagutunathapuram, 24.Koola surandai, 25. F.Meenakshipuram, 26. Rajapandi.

XI. Palayamkottai Block - 26

1.Reddiarpatti,2. Konganthanparai,3. Sivanthipatti,4. Munneerpallam, 5. Melanatham,6. Thidiyur, 7. Kunnathur, 8. Ramayyanpatti, 9. Chathram Pudukulam, 10.Thatchanallur, 11. Oorudayankudiyiruppu, 12. Alanganeri, 13. Sankarnagar,14. Naranammalpuram,15. Rajavallipuram,16. Kurichikulam,17. Seevalaperi,18. Keelapattam,19. V.O.C. Nagar,20. Melapttam, 21. Thiruvannathanpuram, 22. Palayamkottur,23. Thimmarajapuram, 24. Kelaputhaneri, 25. Nechikulam, 26. Naduvakurichi.

XII. Melaneelithanallur Block - 17.

1.Kadayalurutty,2. Koombankulam,3. Kulasekaramangalam, 4. Vellalankulam, 5. Periyasamypuram, 6. Kurukkalpatti,7. Keelaneelithanallur, 8. Chinnakovilankulam, 9. Panavadalichathram 10. Ko-Maruthappapuram, 11. Naduvakurichi,12. Koovachipatti, 13. Achampatti, 14. Moovirunthali,17. Thevarkulam.

XIII. Kalakkad Block - 17

1.Nambithoppu,2. Naduchalaipudur,3. Mavadi,4. Kovilpattu 5. Kalakkad,6. Chidambarapuram,7. Singampattu, 8. Keelapathai 9.

Padmaneri, 10. Idayankulam, 11. Povanallur, 12. Singikulam, 13. Kadambeduvalvu, 14. Kothaisori, 15. Thalavaipuram, 16. Eruvadi

XIV. Radhapuram Block - 23

1. Selvamaruthur, 2. Keeraikaranthattu, 3. Irathanyapuram, 4. Kumarapuram, 5. Pettaikulam, 6. K.Pudur, 7. Idayankudy, 8. Anaikudy, 9. Navalady, 10. B.Ovari, 11. K.Uvari, 12. Kuttom, 13. Koodangulam, 14. Sivasubramaniapuram, 15. Vijayapathy, 16. Keethankuzhy, 17. Thiruvanambalapuram, 18. Udayathur, 19. T.Kallikulam, 20. Samoogarengapuram, 21. Vadivammanatty 22. Seelathikulam, 23. Radhapuram.

XV. Manur Block - 22

1. Mottayanur, 2. Alagiapandiapuram, 3. Nadupillayarkulam 4. Pallikottai, 5. North Cheliyanallur, 6. Kuppanapuram, 7. Kalakudy 8. Ettankulam, 9. Thengalam, 10. Madavakurichi, 11. Kandiaperi, 12. Bharathiyar Nagar, 13. T.Karisalkulam, 14. Nadukallur, 15. Narasinganallur, 16. Seethaparpanallur, 17. Vellalankulam, 18. Gangaikondan, 19. Alangaraperi, 20. Mettupirancheri, 21. Balamadai 22. Thalayuthu.

XVI. Tenkasi Block - 16

1. Vadakarai, 2. Annanagar, 3. Vavanagaram, 4. Panpozhi, 5. Sathiavanimuthu Nagar, 6. Thonpottai, 7. Vallam, 8. Ilanji, 9. Sumaitheerthapuram, 10. Kuthukkalvalasai, 11. Periyapillaivalasai, 12. Sundarapandiapuram, 13. Thiruchitrambalam, 14. Mathalamparai, 15. Nannagaram, 16. Kudiyiruppu.

XVII. Valliyoor Block - 27

1. Zion Hill, 2. Kannanallur, 3. Anaikulam, 4. D.Thirumalapuram 5. Kottayady, 6. Oothady, 7. North Valliyoor, 8. T.Karungulam, 9. Koottapuly, 10. Chettikulam, 11. Rajakrishnapuram, 12. Irukkandurai 13. Vadalivilai, 14. South Valliyoor, 15. Panagudi West, 16. Panagudi East, 17. Thalavaipuram, 18. Kalanthapanai, 19. Botharengapuram 20. Koliyankulam, 21. Ayraikulam, 22. Adankarkulam, 23. North Veppilankulam, 24. Kavalkinar South, 25. Kavalkinar North, 26. Palavoor 27. Jacobpuram

XVIII. Ambasamudram Block - 26

1. Brahmadesam, 2. Vagaikulam, 3. Mannarkoil, 4. Sivanthipuram 5. Adayakarunkulam, 6. Ambalavanapuram, 7. Oorkadu, 8. Puthukiramam 9. Rahuman Colony, 10. Kovilkulam, 11. Priyakulam Colony, 12. Vellankuli, 13. Iyansingampattai, 14. Alandiyur, 15. South Pappankulam, 16. Manjolai, 17. Nalumukku, 18. Geergopuram, 19. Chathiram Street, 20. Vaithiyalingapuram, 21. Sannathi street 22. Pasukkadi Vilai, 23. Anavankudiyiruppu, 24. Kettaivilaipatti, 25. Lower Dam, 26. Servalar.

XIX. Vasudevanallur Block - 25.

1.Vasudevanallur - I, 2. Vasudevanallur - II, 3. Vasudevanallur - III, 4. Vasudevanallur - IV,5. Naranapuram, 6. Sivagiri - I, 7. Sivagiri - II, 8. Sivagiri - III, 9. Sivagiri - IV,10. Viswanathaperi, 11. Inamkovilpatti,12. Devipattanam - I,13. Devipattanam - II, 14. Rayagiri 15. Thalaivapuram,16. Ramanathapuram,17. Guddalore, 18. Duraisamipuram, 19.Thenmalai, 20.Thalaivankottai, 21. Mullikulam 22.Vellankoundampatti, 23. Malayadikurichi, 24. Nelkattumseval, 25. Subramaniapuram.

Drugs to health sub-centres established prior to 1 April 1981were supplied by the State Governmant at the rate of Rs.2000/- per centre per annum. For the health sub-centres established after this date, drugs were supplied by the Government of India in the form of kits. Since 1989-90, instead of supplying drugs, Government of India continues to allot the funds to the State Government for the purchase of drugs to health sub-centres, established after 1 April 1981 at the rate of Rs.2000/- per centre per annum.

Immunisation

In view of the large pendency of unprotected cases noticed in a number of places and to increase in death from small-pox intensive vaccination campaigns were organised in the State in early 1960's. The scheme for systematic vaccination and re-vaccination of one-tenth of the population in each district in a year was in vogue, so that the entire population in a district was covered in 10 years. This programme also helped in the easy verification of vaccinated cases. In several districts adequate vaccination staff were not appointed, due to dearth of qualified hands. Temporary trained hands were, therefore, appointed during the epidemics. Moreover, for a population of every 50,000, one Health Assistant was appointed for the vaccination work. This was found to be insufficient, with a view to eradicate small-pox and to protect the entire population of the State, schemes were formulated during the third Five Year Plan. As per the Plan, the entire population of the State was proposed to be vaccinated within a period of three years. Initially, the vaccination scheme was funded by the Government of India.[51]

The Expanded Programme of Immunisation was implemented in the State since November 1979. The objective of this programme was to reduce morbidity and mortality due to the childhood diseases like diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, measles, and typhoid. Consequent on the eradication of small-pox, infrastructural facilities that were available for National Small Pox Eradication Programme were utilised for providing the expanded Immunisation coverage.

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine monitors the programme and overseas the distribution of drugs.

Since 1989-90, The Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is implemented in the State. Immunisation services are extended through the primary health centres and sub-centres in the rural areas and through hospitals and maternity and child welfare centres in urban areas. A surveillance system is established to obtain adequate information on the incidence of the childhood diseases which are vaccine preventable. The scheme of immunising the children in the age group of 3 months to 12 months with oral polio vaccine with three doses with a booster is in operation since November 1979, in the State. Special immunisation drives were conducted in all the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Blocks, during 1985. The scheme of giving Anti-Typhoid Vaccine to school entrants in the age group of 5-6 years is in operation since 1979. The scheme of immunising the school children in the age group of 10-16 years is in vogue since November 1981. Two doese are given to each beneficiary if there is no previous history of immunisation with DPT or Ist dose, if immunised earlier with DPT or DT.

Measles is one among the seven targeted diseases under immunisation programme. Due to want of vaccine, this programme was not taken up as a routine programme by the Government of India, but, through Rotary International, the measles immunisation was carried out from October 1979. Since 1982, it is being carried out by the Rotary International in co-ordination and co-operation with the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Department.

Under this UIP, immunisation is being done on all Wednesdays and the eligible children and mothers receive immunisation on an out-reach basis. In the municipal areas, the immunisation services are provided both through out-reach approach and institutional approach.

The approach has resulted in the decreased incidence of the vaccine preventable diseases especially poliomyelitis, neo-natal tetanus and measles.

An International Team, which visited Tamil Nadu in 1992 to see the working of the system was very much impressed by the performance of Tamil Nadu, and the manner in which the system has been implemented.

The table given below shows the number of beneficiaries under various immunisation schemes in the district since 1988-89 to 1993-94

Sl No.	*Name of the Scheme*	*1988-89*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*
1.	DPT	44023	53805	53764	59961	58702	58219
2.	Polio	45680	55395	54568	57108	58749	58192
3.	BCC	62981	55116	54810	58825	59800	59351
4.	Measles	62713	54219	55891	57763	57752	59595
5.	TT	44542	54337	54795	537255	62085	60443
6.	D.T.	32921	31661	58738	63842	57148	57190

Vaccine Preventable Diseases.

Number of deaths recorded in the district since 1990 to 1995.

Sl. No.	*Name of the Disease*	*1990-91*		*1991-92*		*1992-93*		*1993-94*		*1994-95*	
		C	*D*	*C*	*D*	*C*	*D*	*C*	*D*	*C*	*D*
1.	Diphtheria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2.	Pertusis	1	--	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
3. --	Tetanus (N.N)	8	2	19	7	5	5	2	-	-	--
4.	Tetanus	85	12	42	1	18	--	13	1	23	9
5.	Polio	17	--	25	--	11	--	10	1	22	--
6.	Meales	224	11	89	10	32	--	57	--	85	--
7.	Tuberculosis (Childhood)	10	--	54	--	--	--	--	--	371	4

C - Cases, D - Death, N.N. Neo-natal.

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CHAPTER - 16

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The first General Election in India based on adult franchise was held in 1952 which was followed by the General Elections of the years, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1971, 1980, 1984, 1989, 1991 and 1996. The smooth and peaceful participation of the people in these General Elections and the phenomenal success they achieved testify to the imbibing spirit of democracy by the masses inspite of the handicaps of illiteracy. The fair conduct of elections and the unbiased exercise of franchise by the people are ensured by the enactment of so many Acts. There are also statutory laws and orders issued from time to time by the Central Government and the directions and executive instructions issued by the Election Commission, which govern the conduct of elections to the Union Parliament and the State Legislature.

The Legislature

The two houses of Union Parliament are known respectively as the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). The former was first constituted in 1952 consisting of 216 members. After the formation of new State Andhra in 1953, the number of members increased to 219. (At present, the Council of State consist of 250 members). Of these, 12 members were nominated by the President, as required by the Constitution, being persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as Literature, Science, Art and Social service. The remaining 238 members were elected to represent the States.[1]

The House of the People (Lok Sabha)

The total number of Lok Sabha seats during 1952 General Elections was 499 including two seats nominated by the President of India. Out of 499 seats, the composite Madras Presidency had 75 seats.[2] After the reorganisation of seats on linguistic basis, the then Madras state had 41 seats including seven seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in the 1957 and 1962 General Elections.From 1967 General Election to 1998 General Election the Lok Sabha had 545 members. Out of 545 members, 77 were reserved for Scheduled Castes and 38 for Scheduled Tribes.[3] Consequent on the delimitation of Constituencies, the number of seats in Madras state decreased from 41 to 39 from 1967 General Elections to date.There were three Lok Sabha seats in the composite Tirunelveli district during 1952 and 1957 General Elections. In the 1962 General Elections, the number of Lok Sabha seats increased to four (addition of Kovilpatti Parliamentary constituency meant for Scheduled Caste) by reconstituting

the Lok Sabha seats and the Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituency was brought under the General Category. After the 1962 General Elections, the total number of Lok Sabha seats in the composite Tirunelveli district had come down to three by abolishing the Kovilpatti Parliamentary Constituency and the Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituency became a reserved constituency. Two members were elected to the Lok Sabha from the Tirunelveli district after the bifurcation of Tirunelveli district in to Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi districts.

State Legislature

In Tamil Nadu, the State Legislature consisted of two bodies till 1986. They are: The (Madras) Tamil Nadu Legislative Council and the (Madras) Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

(Madras) Tamil Nadu Legislative Council

The (Madras) Tamil Nadu Legislative Council as first constituted by the Indian Council Act 1861, consisted of ordinary members of the Governor's Council and a number of additional members besides the Advocate General, of whom not less than half were to be non-officials nominated by the Governor. The number of nominated members, exclusive of Advocate-General, was fixed at not less than four and more than eight and the strength of the council was so small. By the Council Act 1892, the minimum and maximum number of additional members exclusive of Advocate-General were raised to 8 and 20 respectively. The next stage in the development of the Council was marked by the Indian Council Act 1909. The Council consisted of 42 additional members besides the ordinary members of the Governor's Council. This time, 21 members out of 42 additional members were elected. As per the Government of India Act 1919, the Council consists of 98 additional elected members and 25 nominated members. Of the nominated members not more than 19 may be officials, five are nominated to represent the backward communities and one to represent the inhabitants of the Agency Division, which has been declared a backward tract.[4]

The Fifth Legislative Council under the Government of India Act 1935 came into force on 1st April 1937. A bicameral Legislature consisting of an Assembly of 215 members and a Council of 54 to 56 members came into existence under the New Act. The provincial elections under this new constitution were held in February 1937 wherein the Congress party secured 159 out of 215 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 26 out of 46 elected seats in the Legislative Council.[5] In Tirunelveli district, there were six representatives elected to the Legislative Council in this election.[6]

In the composite state of Madras, in 1952, there were 72 members in the Madras Legislative Council, of whom 24 members were elected by

Local bodies, six by Graduates, six by Teachers and 24 by Members of the Legislative Assembly and 12 members were nominated by the Governor. Out of these seats to be filled by election, 36 were by direct election and 24 by indirect election. There were 5 two member constituencies, 6 three member constituencies and 2 four member constituencies. There was no single member constituency. There was no reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.[7]

After the formation of new State of Andhra in 1953, the total number of seats was reduced to 51.[8] But in the year 1958, the number of seats was increased to 63. Of these, 54 were elected and nine were nominated by the Governor. Persons who rendered significant service to the state in the fields of Literature, science, art, education, social work, etc., were nominated as the members of the Council.

The elected members were chosen from particular constituencies in accordance with the system of proportional representation by the single transferable vote. Out of the 63 members in the Council, 21 were elected by Local Authorities, 21 by members of Legislative Council, six by Teachers, six by Graduates and nine were nominated by the Governor. The Madras Legislative Council is a continuous body, but about one third of its members retired every two years.[9]

In composite Tirunelveli district, there were three members, of whom, two members were elected by Local Authorities and one by Tirunelveli - Kanniyakumari Teachers.[10] The names of Members elected to the Legislative Council from the composite Tirunelveli district from 1952 to 1986 in different elections held are given below:[11]

1. Odayappa 2. Sankaranarayana Pillai 3. Sankaralinkam Pillai, M. 4. Siva Subramania Nadar 5. Adithanar si.pa. 6. Sivasubramania Pandian 7. Adithan S.T. 8. Vellapandian 9. Yusuf, M. and 10. Vallimuthu E.V.A.

Abolition of Tamil Nadu Legislative Council

Though the Council consists of 63 members, as on 31st October 1986, there were only 33 members, including the Chairman. Thirty seats were vacant. Of these 33 members, 15 members belonged to AIADMK; seven to D.M.K.; three to Teachers Graduates Progressive Front; two to I.N.C.; one to Communist party and four Independents and the Chairman. The last meeting of the Council was held on 16th May 1986 and the Governor prorogued the session on 29th May 1986. On the resolution adopted by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Article 169 (1) read with Rule 100 (5) of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 14th May 1986, *The Tamil Nadu Legislative Council (Abolition) Bill, 1986* was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8th August 1986 and considered by the Lok Sabha on 12th August 1986 and by the Rajya Sabha on 14th August

1986. The Bill which received the assent of the President on 1st September 1986 came into force on 1st November 1986. Thus, the (Madras) Tamil Nadu Legislative Council which was in existence for more than 125 years since the enactment of the Indian Council Act, 1861, was abolished on 1st November1986.[12]

(Madras) Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

According to Article 170 of the Constitution, the Legislative Assembly of each State shall consist of not more than 500 members and not less than 60 members, chosen by direct election from the territorial constituencies in the State. [13] In the composite State of Madras, in 1952, there were 243 single member constituencies and 66 double member constituencies making a total of 309. The number came down considerably in 1957, because the Andhra districts were separated from Madras State. The total number of constituencies came down to 167 out of which 129 were single member constituencies and 38 were double member constituencies. In 1961, the double member constituencies were abolished and there was a redistribution. Thus, there were 206 Assembly constituencies in 1962. The number of Assembly constituencies went up in 1967 from 206 to 235. Of these, one member was nominated by the Governor of Madras from the Anglo-Indian community. Out of the 234 directly elected seats 42 seats were reserved for scheduled castes and three seats reserved for scheduled tribes. [14]

In the General Elections of 1952 and 1957, there were 14 constituencies in the composite Tirunelveli District out of which 11 were single member constituencies and three were double member constituencies. In the 1962 General Elections, the double member constituencies were abolished and the number of constituencies in the district was increased to 17 of which three were reserved for the scheduled castes. The number of constituencies increased to 19 in 1967 and 1972 General Elections. In the General Elections of 1977, 1980 and 1984, there were 18 constituencies. The number of constituencies came down in the General Elections 1989 because the Tirunelveli district was bifurcated into Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi districts. In 1989, 1991 and 1996 General Elections were held in the district, there were 11 Assembly constituencies of which two were reserved for scheduled castes. [15]

Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislature

First General Election 1952

The first General Elections was held in 1952 on the basis of adult franchise. It gave equal opportunities to all citizens. In the composite Tirunelveli district, there were 11 single member constituencies and three double member constituencies making a total of 14 constituencies with

17 seats. Three seats among 17 were reserved for scheduled castes. The total number of voters in the district was 1,229,434 of whom 5,86,627 were males and 6,42,807 were females. Of the total electorate, 7,98,711 were from the rural area. The total number of persons who voted at the polls was 6,95,913, which was slightly more than 50 per cent of the total number of votes. In composite Tirunelveli district, there were three parliamentary constituencies and 14 assembly constituencies. Tirunelveli, Sankarankoil and Srivaikuntam are the three Parliamentary constituencies. Koilpatti, Kadambur (Double member constituency), Thoothukkudi, Srivaikuntam Tiruchendur, Sattankulam, Radhapuram, Nanguneri, Tirunelveli (Double member constituency), Ambasamudram, Kadayam, Tenkasi, Alangulam and Sankarankoil (Double member constituency) were the Assembly constituencies.

In this General Election, out of 17 seats, the Indian National Congress (INC) secured 13 seats and 42.67 per cent of the total votes. The Independents got four seats, securing 53.40 per cent of the total votes. The Communist party of India (CPI) got 33,694 votes, 3.93 per cent of the total votes but could not win a seat.[16]

All the three seats for the Lok Sabha were won by the Indian National Congress Party.

Second General Elections - 1957

The Second General Elections in India was conducted in 1957. In this General Elections, the number of Assembly constituencies in the composite district was also 14 which elected 17 representatives. There were redistribution of constituencies and some were renamed. Srivaikuntam, Radhapuram and Kadayam constituencies replaced those of Pazhavoor, Cheranmahadevi and Vilathikulam of the 1952 General Elections. The total number of voters in the district during 1957 General Elections was 1504519 of whom, 767304 were men, 737215 were women and 797850 were from rural areas.

The Assembly constituencies were Koilpatti, Kadambur, (Double member), Thoothukkudi, Pazhavoor, Tiruchendur, Sattankulam, Cheranmahadevi, Nanguneri, Tirunelveli (Double member) Ambasamudram, Vilathikulam, Tenkasi, Alangulam and Sankarankoil (Double member).[17]

In composite Tirunelveli district, there were three Parliamentary constituencies, viz., Tirunelveli, Tiruchendur and Tenkasi. There was redistribution of some territories and of the three constituencies of 1952 General Elections were renamed as Tiruchendur and Tenkasi.

In this General Elections, the Indian National Congress (INC) secured 12 seats with 48.47 per cent of the total vote of the district. The Independents secured 5 seats with 37.42 per cent of the total votes. The

Communist Party of India (CPI) got 5.3 per cent, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) got 4.48 per cent and the Praja Socialist Party (PSP) got 4.33 per cent of the total votes, but could not win a seat.[18]

All the three seats for the House of the People (Lok Sabha) were won by the Indian National Congress Party.

Third General Elections, 1962

In 1962, the third General Elections was conducted throughout the country. In this Election, the double member constituencies were abolished and the number of constituencies in the pre-bifurcated district was increased to 17 of which three were reserved for Schedueled castes. The total number of voters in the district during the Elections was 15,67,533, of whom, 7,56,001 were males and 8,11,532 were females. The number of rural votes was 11,00,387, of which, 5,59,061 were men.[19]

In the Composite Tirunelveli district, there were 17 Assembly constituencies and four parliamentary constituencies, which were Alangulam, Ambasamudram, Gangaikondan, Kadambur, Kadayam, Koilpatti, Nanguneri, Ottapidaram, Puliangudi, Radhapuram, Sankarankoil, Sattankulam, Srivaikuntam, Tenkasi, Tiruchendur, Tirunelveli and Thoothukkudi and Koilpatti, Tenkasi, Tiruchendur and Tirunelveli respectively. Of these, Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituency was reserved for scheduled castes.[20]

The Indian National Congress (INC) secured the Largest number of votes 5,21,102, which was 48.89 per cent of the total votes. The Swatantra party got 2,08,748 votes amounting to 19.59 per cent of the total votes.The Communist Party of India (CPI) got 1,09,733 votes amounting to 10.3 per cent of the total votes. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) got 1,03,064 votes amounting to 9.67 per cent of the total votes.

In this election, all the 17 Assembly constituencies and the four Parliamentary constituencies were won by the INC. Of the four Parliamentary seats, there was no contest for Tiruchendur constituency from where the INC candidate was returned to the Loksabha unopposed.

Among those elected to the Lok Sabha, Thiru T.T.Krishnamachari was made Union Minister for Finance. From those who were elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly, Thiru S.Chellapandian (Alangulam Assembly constituencies) became the speaker of the Assembly, while Thiru S.M.A.Majid (Sankarankoil Assembly Constituency) was inducted as the Minister for Local Administration.

Fourth General Elections - 1967

The Delimitation Commission appointed to go into redelimitation of constituencies in the (then) Madras State, after a thorough study,

suggested some changes in the constituent parts of constituencies. In the General Elections, the number of Assembly constituencies were increased from 17 to 19 in the then Tirunelveli district. The 19 Assembly constituencies were 1. Ambasamudram 2. Koilpatti, 3. Tirunelveli, 4. Ottapidaram 5. Sankarankoil 6. Melapalayam 7. Srivaikuntam 8. Alangulam 9. Cheranmahadevi 10. Gangaikontan 11. Thoothukkudi 12. Sattankulam 13. Nanguneri 14. Radhapuram 15. Vilathikulam 16. Vasudevanallur 17. Kadayanallur 18. Tenkasi and 19 Tiruchendur. Among these, Ottapidaram, Sankarankoil and Vasudevanallur were reserved for Scheduled caste.

There were three Parliamentary constituencies, viz., Tenkasi, Tirunelveli and Tiruchendur of which Tenkasi was reserved for Scheduled caste.

In the General Elections 1967, the total electorate in the Composite Tirunelveli district was 17,12,094. The total number of valid votes cast were 12,31,334. The largest number of votes secured were by the Indian National Congress Party (INC) which was 5,12,120 and 42.32 per cent of the total votes. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam got 4,48,937 votes which was 36.46 per cent of the total votes. The Independents secured 1,12,736 votes making it to 9.89 per cent of the total votes. The Swatantra Party got 62143 votes which was 5.05 per cent of the total votes. The Communist Party of India (CPI) secured 47,309 votes amounting to 3.84 per cent to the total votes. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) got 29486 votes (2.39 per cent). The Jana Sang Party got 603 votes which was only to 0.05 per cent of the total votes. [21]

In this election, the DMK secured 9 Assembly seats out of 19 seats, Congress 5, Swatantra 7, CPI 1and Independent candidates 2.

Of the three parliamentary seats, two were secured by Swatantra Party and Tenkasi Parliamentary constituency went to the INC.

Fifth General Elections,1971

In 1971 also General Elections to the House of the People and State Legislative Assembly were held together. In the then Tirunelveli district, the political parties contested were Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Indian National Congress (INC), Forward Bloc, Communist Party of India (CPI) and Swatantra Party besides the Independent candidates.

In the district, there were 19 Assembly constituencies and 3 Parliamentary constituencies. The DMK captured 14 Assembly constituencies, out of 19, CPI 1, INC 1, Forward Bloc 1, Swatantra 1 and the Independent candidate 1. Three Parliamentary Constituencies were shared euqally among the DMK, CPI and INC parties. Among the total constituencies, 3 Assembly Constituencies and one Parliamentary constituency were reserved for scheduled caste. [22]

Sixth General Elections 1977

In Tamil Nadu so far, elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly had been held simultaneously. The state came under President's Rule since 31st January 1976 for over one year when the State Assembly was dissolved. Elections were held in March 1977 only to Lok Sabha were held in this State independently of the Assembly Elections. After the end of the President's Rule, elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly were held in June 1977. In these cases, the per centage of electorate was calculated on the basis of the estimated figures as on 1st January 1976.[23]

In the Composite Tirunelveli district there were 18 Assembly constituencies, of which, three were reserved for scheduled castes. Of the three Parliamentary constituencies, one was reserved for scheduled caste.

The D.M.K. which was the ruling party until the imposition of President's Rule was voted out power in this General Election and a new regional party, i.e. Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (ADMK) came to power. The Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam got thumping victories in almost all the districts including the Composite Tirunelveli district with an exemption in Madras city where the DMK reaped a rich harvest.

In these elections, the ADMK party secured 10 Assembly seats, out of 18 seats, INC secured 2, the Janata party 2, the CPM 2, and DMK and CPM got one each. In the Lok Sabha election, INC secured 2 seats and one seat went to the ADMK Party.[24]

Seventh General Elections, 1980

In 1980, the Lok Sabha Elections were held in January, 1980 and the Assembly Elections in May 1980 and the per centage of electorate has been calculated on the basis of estimated population as on 1st January 1979.[25]

In Composite Tirunelveli district, there were 18 Assembly constituencies and three Parliamentary constituencies, DMK, AIDMK, CPI, CPI (M), Cong. (I), GKC, Janatha and Independent candidates contested in these constituencies. The AIADMK party won in 10 Assembly seats, GKC got 3 seats, CPI 2 seats, CPI (M) 2 seats and Independent candidate won the other seat.

In the Lok Sabha elections, 2 constituencies, were won by the Congress(I) and one seat went to the DMK Party.

In this election, three Assembly seats and one Parliamentary seats were reserved for scheduled castes.

Eighth General Elections - 1984

After a long gap of 13 years, simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly were held. In this General Election 1984, candidates from various political parties contested in the District. The parties contested were AIADMK, DMK, CPI, CPI(M), GKC, Janatha Party and Independents. The total number of electorates in Tirunelveli district during the 1984 elections was 22,42,850.[26]

In the then Tirunelveli district, there were 18 Assembly constituencies, of which 8 constituencies were won by the AIADMK; 5 by Cong. (I), 3 by DMK 2 by GKC and 2 seats went to Independent candidates. There were 3 Parliamentary constituencies of which, 2 seats were won by Cong. (I) and one seat went to the AIADMK Party.

Ninth General Elections - 1989

The erstwhile Tirunelveli district was bifurcated as Tirunelveli district and Thoothukkudi district in the year 1986. After bifurcation, Tirunelveli district has two parliamentary constituencies, viz., Tirunelveli and Tenkasi. Three Assembly constituencies from the Tirunelveli district, viz., Cheranmahadevi, Nanguneri and Radhapuram constituencies have been included in the Tiruchendur Parliamentary constituency of Thoothukkudi district. This has been compensated by including the Vilathikulam, Ottapidaram, Srivaikuntam and Thoothukkudi Assembly constituencies (Thoothukkudi district) in Tirunelveli Parliamentary constituency. Tenkasi Parliamentary constituency which was reserved for scheduled castes contains Sankarankoil, Vasudevanallur, Kadayanallur, Tenkasi, Alangulam and Ambasamudram Assembly constituencies.[27]

For this 1989 General Elections, the district had 11 Assembly constituencies, namely, Sankarankoil, Vasudevanallur, Kadayanallur, Tenkasi, Alangulam, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, Cheranmahadevi, Ambasamudram, Nanguneri and Radhapuram.

In this election, the Cong.(I) party secured 5 Assembly seats, the D.M.K.-5 and AIADMK (Janaki) Party-1.

Tenth General Elections - 1991

In 1991, the elections to the Parliament (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assembly were held simultaneously, in June 1991 and the per centage of electorate has been calculated on the basis of estimated population as on 1st March 1991.[28]

In Tirunelveli district, out of the 11 Assembly seats in the General Elections, the AIADMK secured seven and the Indian National Congress (INC) won four.

Out of the two Parliamentary constituencies, viz., Tirunelveli and Tenkasi, the latter was reserved for Scheduled Castes. In the elections, the AIADMK captured the Tirunelveli constituency while the INC Party won the Tenkasi constituency.

Eleventh General Elections - 1996

The Eleventh simultaneous General Elections to Lok Sabha and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly were conducted on the basis of constituencies as delimited in the delimitation order, 1976. During these Elections, notable changes were introduced in the election procedure as directed by Election Commission of India. The poll hours from 7. 00 am to 5 pm for all 39 Parliamentary Constituencies and 234 Assembly Constituencies[29].

The total Electorate in Tirunelveli district was 1805496. Out of this, men were 8,87,344 and women 9,18,152.

In this General Election marked the birth of a new political party at regional level in Tamil Nadu. The party was named as the 'Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar)' This party an alliance with the State party viz., Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the alliance swept the poll. In Tirunelveli district, this party won 4 Assembly seats and one Lok sabha seat (Tenkasi). D.M.K got 5 Assembly seats and one lok sabha seat (Tirunelveli). The AIADMK and CPI got each one in the Assembly seats.

Total Electorates, successful Political party, votes polled, and votes secured (Constituency-wise) in the General Elections from 1952 to 1996 in the district since Independence are given in *Appendices - 1 to 11.* Total number of electorates constituency-wise as in 1996 and Educational qualifications of the elected members (First election to Tenth election) are given in *Appendices 12 and 13.* Names of elected members in the General Elections from 1952 to 1996 are given in the *Appendices 14 to 17.*

Newspapers and Periodicals

Press is generally considered as the most important mass medium capable of moulding the public opinion. It is considered as the Fourth Estates besides Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. It also acts as a mediator between the Government and the masses[30]. The introduction of Vernacular Press Act in 1867 showed that the Indian language newspapers had become a force to reckon with, whether the Government liked them or not. A Tamil Newspaper, Dinavarthamani, started in 1856, in Madras, is said to have been the first important newspaper in an Indian language, although a Tamil Magazine was established by the Christian Religious Tract Society in 1831.[31] The oldest magazine still in circulation in the state is *Tinnevelly Diocesan Magazine,* a Tamil monthly established in 1849 in Tirunelveli.[32]

Since 1859 there has been a Government district printing press, where the District Gazette is printed in English and Tamil (the prevailing

language of the district). In 1883-84, there were eight private presses, one of them belonging to the Church Missionary Society.[33]

The following are the Tamil Newspapers and periodicals published from the Tirunelveli district.[34]

Dailies

Thina Thanthi, Thina Malar, Thinakaran, Kathiravan, Malai Murasu and Malai Malar. Among these dailies Thinamalar (தினமலர்) and Kathiravan (கதிரவன்) have their head offices in the district while others have branches. The Weeklies: Thozhil Ani, Sukkiran, Mine Jokkar and Theria Nenjam, Simmakural, Santhi, Manava Nanban, Nellai Puratchi Pathai and Avadani are published fortnightly. The monthly magazines published from the district are Tamilar Kural, Panchayat Paripalanam, Vadamalar, Books warm, Vari Chaithi, Nellai Kootturavu, Subam, Tamil Nadu Iyal cultural, Kavingar Bharathi, Vasantha Malar, Porselvi, Alli, Saram, Pothigai Malar, Thozhar, Varthaga Malar, Siraj, Civil Paramedical Employee Magazine, Nanbar vattam, Pokkuvarathu Kakkisattai, Manna, Kalanthai Kural, Marutha Malar, Chiruveeran, Gokula Nithran, Indirar Kural, Valarum Chedi, Anantha Kalai sudar, Consumer Murasu, Commercial Aids (Business),Vanika Murasu (Business) Siddar Gurukulam (Medicine), and Chit Murasu (Chitfund).

The following Monthlies published from here are the origins of the Christian religious [35]. Matha Malar, Idaya Sudar, Gnanathoodan, Yesu Viduvikkirar, Jaba malar, Sareath, Maria Valga, Missionery Intelligeneer, Balar Nesan, Megangaludane varukirar, Yesuvin Anbu, Yesuvin Mahimai, Paraloga Priyam, Anbin Thoni, Yesu Namakkappal, Yesu Nallavar, Vaira Thuri, Ulagin Oli, Puthuir, Yesu Adikkalam, Kartharin Prasannam, Christava Makkal Iyakkam and Dukkamathil Yesuvai Santhithen. Journals devoted to Hindus were, Saivaneri, Ayar Padi, Muppiravi, Thirumani and Sittantham. In respect of Islam, the periodicals published are the Nooral Juman, Rakmath, Jamathul Umma and Islam Nesan.

Various English and Tamil dailies published from Madras, Madurai and Delhi or Bombay such as, Thinamani (Tamil - Madurai) Hindu (English - Madras); Indian Express (English - Madurai); News Today (English - Bombay); Theekathir (Tamil) Makkal Kural (Tamil) Murasoli (Tamil) have vide circulation in the district also.

The following periodicals published outside the district mostly from Madras are in circulation in the district. The Tamil Weeklies were Anantha Vikatan, Kalki, Kumutham, Kungumam, Mutharam, Thamarai, Usha, Pakya, Junior Vikatan, Nakkiran, Kalkandu, Police, Tarasu, Netrikkan, Tamilan Express, Aval etc. Besides the Competition Success Review, Competition Master, General Knowledge, India Today (G.K.Today) Employment News are also found in the news stands of the district.

Voluntary Social Service Organisations

The Post Independence era has witnessed the emergence of social service and non-Governmental Organisations in the country. Primarily, the voluntary social service Organisations strive for the care, protection, reformation and rehabilitation of socially handicapped.

The Social Service Organisations in Tirunelveli district are found to be many and a good number of philanthoropists carry on such social service activities with great encomium and endurance. The important institutions that carry on social service activities which merit consideration are enlisted here.

Young Women Christian Association

The Young Women Christian Association,(YWCA) Palayamkottai was started in July 1953. It was afiliated to the Y.W.C.A. of India in 1954, which is a member of the World Organisation. The activities of Y.W.C.A. relate to religious and social items of work. "The purpose of the Association according to its Constitution, is to unite the women and girls of this country in a fellowship, worldwide in scope which is rooted in the desire to follow Jesus Christ and work for its Kingdom. It seeks to promote the physical, mental, spiritual development of its members and to encourage and to train them in ways of service.[36]

The members go out once a week to villages and indulge in social work. During these visits they teach needle work to the village woman and teach the illiterates the basics of education. The village children are taught games and to sing religious songs. The members visit hospitals every week and console the sick and the wounded.

Avvai Ashram

The Avvai Ashram, Sivasailam located on the right bank of the river Karuna, a tributory to the Tamiraparani, was started on 13 September 1954. Its prime objectives are to rehabilitate the destitute women and children, to provide education for deaf and dumb children and to run balwadies and mahila Mandals and educating Boys and girls. To fulfil these objectives this Organisation admits widows and deserted wives between I8 and 30 years of age and prepares them to write the VIII standard Public examinations by providing them free boarding and lodging. They are also trained in weaving and tailoring. After the completion of the course, they are sent to higher education. About 400 girls have been so far benefitted by this training.

Besides the Nursery centres, it runs a Teacher Training Institute in 1960. Over 100 teacher trainees have come out successfully from this Institute. Another training wing called Pre-Primary Teacher Training

Institute started in 1973 has also been run by the Ashram from which about 100 trained teachers have emerged.

This Ashram also takes care of training of about 100 deaf children. From the three Balwadies that this Ashram runs 1495 beneficiaries enjoyed its philanthrophy. In 1974 it had taken over the management of Deaf run by a Mutt.[37]

Sri Kanniyakumari Gurukula Ashram

Sri Kanniyakumari Gurukula Ashram is a Social Service Organisation founded in 1952. Its branch at Alamelupuram in Levenjipuram village of Radhapuram taluk was opened in 1970. Another branch at Sitaramapuram in Terku Karunkulam village, was opened in 1976.

The aims of the organisation are to provide free long term total residential care to orphans and destitutes. The Ashram brings up abandoned infants, neglected children, destitutes and aged poor. It runs homes for infants and children in the villages, food, shelter, clothes, health care, education up to college, etc., are given totally free. After suitable training the Ashram helps in rehabilitating inmates through jobs.

The Ashram has a home for boys at Alamelupuram and cottages for girls at Sitaramapuram. Twenty destitutes and aged people are also accommodated in these two centres. The cottages also accommodate 150 children. Agriculture, Dairy, an ornamental Nursery Garden, Orchards, etc., are also manitained here. Thirty people from the villages around get daily employment as agricultural labourers. Vocational programme in tailoring helps 25 women annually. As a relief organisation the Ashram distributes relief food to about 200 families, from several villages every day.

Community services in the form of day care services are conducted in surrounding villages which benefit about 40 children annually. More than 300 children have been benefitted so far. Average annual expenditure incurred is Rs.20 lakhs as worked as from the years of 1991 to 1994.[38]

Islands of Peace

Founded by Rev.Fr.Dominique of Belgium, a Nobel Laureate in 1962 in the line of his previous associations like Aid to Displaced Persons, in 1950, *Europe of the heart at the service of the world* in 1957 and the University of Peace in 1960, the motto of the Island of peace is, *with our own hands* or *through self help.*

The Island of Peace, Kalakad made its debut in 1968 and eversince its inception carries on its socio-economic activities with foreign funds especially from Belgium. Three experts from Belgium viz., E.Van Camfort, Mrs.Gertude Van Camfort and Dr.Quinchon here had handed over the

medical programme to the Tirunelveli Government Medical College Hospital with all its real assets worth several lakhs of rupees in October 1974, with the concurrence of the Government of Tamilnadu with receiving any compensation.

The contemplated social purposes are, (i) establishment and maintenance of social welfare centres, Balwadies for the benefit of the children, to run orphanages and understanding of other allied activities, calculated to give relief and assistance to the poor section of Society especially for women and children. (ii) establishment and maintenance of Public libraries and reading rooms for the promotion of home-crafts in the rural community, adult education, environmental hygiene, first aid child care, family planning, etc. Through an organised set of 'Madhar Sangams' (Women's Association) inculcate in women the knowledge of tailoring, embroidery spinning, weaving, etc., and (iii) Diffuse scientific methods of agriculture to farmers. etc.,

With these objectives this institution is engaged in several developmental programme including social welfare programme for the amelioration of women and children in weaker sections of the society. It helps in the field investigation of ground water resources supplies drilling equipments, helps sinking wells and installing pump sets. Besides deepening 165 existing wells, 178 new wells, have been sunk and 270 pump sets installed in Kalakad block.

After sinking the well as a follow-up measure the technical call of the Island of peace consisting of one agronomist and five agricultural assistants extend technical advice in all spheres. The institution is providing drinking water to the villages by putting deep bores and installing pump sets. The social programme of the Institution mainly, is to run training Centre, in a well accomplished building in the campus. Each batch consisting of about 12 to 15 students are being given training in sewing, tailoring, dress making, embroidery and various other handicrafts such as bead-work, wire baskets, purses, etc., Instructions in nutrition, hygiene, child care, house keeping, etc., are also not ignored. After the completion of training, financial assistance for the purchase of implements like sewing machines is arranged through scheduled banks.

The maternity and child health programme, a priority scheme of the Island of Peace, consists of running of 12 balwadies in 12 interior villages of Kalakad Block. The children within the age-group of three to five are admitted and provided with all amenities from nutritious food to education free of cost. In the recent times *Church Auxiliary for Social Action* Madras is assisting this institution in extending nutritious food as mid day meal to the children.

This Institution, though has only 29 members on its roll, got 425 beneficiaries by way of sinking or deepening wells or installing pump sets. About 500 pre-schoolers and 250 women are being benefited by the Maternity and child health programme.

Anybody paying Rs.100/- as annual subscription can become an ordinary member of the Association and a payment of Rs.5000/- makes him *Life member.*[39]

Bethal Welfare Centre

Bethal Welfare Centre, a Social Service Organisation registered in 1980 under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 is located in Palayamkottai. It is established with the objectives of: Undertaking Community Development Programmes among the poor and needy; promoting and providing medical work, including prevention of disease and suffering; the care and healing of the sick and affliated; promoting employment opportunities, among educated and uneducated; providing better water facilities, irrigation facilities and drinking water; working for the development in the field of agricultural, small scale industries and providing opportunities for small traders, organising technical education and affording experience in technical field and promoting self employment opportunities.

To achieve these objectives the centre arranges for training in tailoring, dress making and embroidary, rope-making, palm-leaf, plastic wire knitting, typewriting and car driving, running balwadies, providing adult education, sponsorship for higher education, building of water tanks, providing borewells and pumps, deepening of wells, relief for fire victims and flood victims, annual medical check up for children, housing loan assistance, Community development programme, camps, income generating programmes, etc.[40]

Community Action for Social Transformation (CAST)

CAST, a Non-Governmental development organisation, founded in July 1984, started its activities in 1985. Its headquarters is at Poothathankudiruppu, Kalakad in Nanguneri taluk. It carries out its activities in Kalakad and Cheranmahadevi Blocks.The primary objectives of CAST is to initiate and implement developmental programmes for the socially and economically downtrodden. Its activities have been extended to 45 villages of Cheranmahadevi and Kalakad blocks in the District.

CAST has conducted the following programmes, (i) Economic development programme, such as training and employment in the making of sisal, banana, fibre and palm leaf articles, food processing, garment making, dairying, goat rearing and poultry keeping. Through this organisation 538 women have obtained waged employment in the region.

(ii) Basic health programme :- CAST's medical and health education services reach even the remotest villages and cover 38,000 inhabitants in Cheranmahadevi block. The basic health programme includes maternal and child care, nutrition, treatment of minor ailments, control of communicable diseases and health education. Three clinics are run, with three Health Assistants and 15 traditional midwives under the guidance of a Medical practitioner. Women and children are involved in this programme. The infant mortality rate which was 120 per 1000 in 1989 had dropped to 35 in 1993. Ninety Five percent of children are covered by immunisation. (iii) CAST has organised a cultural troups by the name *VIDIVELLI* which has 10 members comprised both men and women hailing from different localities. This team has been involved in a mass education programme, using a variety of techniques such as drama, folk dance, and villupattu (bow-song) all aimed at educating the villagers on such important subjects such as the effects of alcoholism, dowry, smoking, female infacticide, neglect of children, AIDS, etc., They also illustrate the importance of health, sanitation, immunization and the income generating activities. (iv) Training Programme: CAST carries out the Integrated Rural Development Programme's (IRDP) training courses (TRYSEM) in seven blocks in the district using funds provided by the District Rural Development Agency.

In Kalakad block, with the assistance from Foreign Countries, ten elementary schools are being run in ten villages, ten borewells have been dug in ten villages, 50 rural latrines have been constructed in ten villages, 20 marginal farmers have been aided with loans to raise and cultivate tapioca on their land in the district.[41]

Rural Uplift Centre

It is a Voluntary Social Service Organisation founded in 1981 for the purpose of imparting social education for development to the people of the Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks in the district. It has conducted educational programmes for children and adults in that area.

Nature of its work is multidimensional which includes awareness generation, skill development, health care, legal aid and human rights protection, socio economic activities, and resources centre development.The primary objective of the organisation is at improving the living conditions of the poor through proper education, employment opportunities, spread of appropriate agricultural technology cultural activities, health education and adult and non formal education.

It is running nine pre-schools in Nanguneri and Radhapuram taluks in the district for the socially and economically oppressed people. Out of these four schools are supported by Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. Every year 275 children get pre-school training. It also conducts tuition programmes in twenty villages with the help of volunteers in the

taluks. Rural school going children are helped to equip in their studies and made them talented students through extra curricular activities.It is also running two tailoring centres to train the rural women in dress making. Every year 100 women are trained in needle work, embroidery and handicrafts. Training in palm fibre production and processing is imparted to 50 women each year.Community health programmes are also conducted. One dispensary is functioning at Sundarapandiapuram to take care of the medical needs of the surrounding villages. People of the twenty villages are able to avail the health and medical facilities from the Government without goint to village quacks. RUC also carries out social service activities to help the people when they are in distress caused by flood, fire, etc., It helps the refugees too. Besides, it has established a Resource Centre for the benefit of the people.It has organised village level associations of the oppressed and federated them under an apex body *Nellai Kattabomman District Working People's Development Association*[42]

District Sarvodaya Cow Protection Committee

District Sarvodaya Cow Protection Movement was started in 1952. The Cow Protection centres are to be organised perfectly and as far as possible in the tribal development blocks and the other areas. The agencies may also undertake the propaganda against cow slaughter. The cow protection centres are functioning throughout the district with the help of local committees. In the taluk headquarters, panchayat union headquarters, municipalities, town panchayats and village panchayats, this movement has found its stronghold and carried out by the local committees in the area through a person who is devoted to the cause of protection of cow.

Boomidan and Sarvodaya movements have received 3000 acres of Boomidan lands and 300 acres for Gramadan. They have founded village committees consisting of villagers. They have also encouraged village industry. Boomidan lands were distributed among 3000 villagers for agricultural purposes.[43]

St.Thomas Home for Children

St.Thomas Home for Children is a branch of the Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Palayamkottai and was founded in the year 1970. It is located in Kurichi in the Melapalayam area. It has been started with the objective of enabling the children to acquire primary education and overall character development and to make the destitute children to become better citizens of India.

The Home is run with the able support and guidance of the social welfare department. The boys are accommodated in eight cottages which are managed and supervised by eight house fathers. All the boys are provided with eloborate study halls which have necessary furniture. They

can have access to audio, video, small library, small garden, refreshment etc. They have constructed a separate sick room to bestow them with proper medical attention. Training in tailoring and basket making, with nylon wires is offered to the inmates. By this programme 1012 students are benefited. The students are involved in dairy farming, rabbit growing, gardening and cooking. Extra curriculor activities like sports, drawing, acting etc., are the other aspects of the training programme. After completing their middle school education, the students can choose for secondary education or for vocational training.[44]

Christian Mission Service, Children's Home

The Lutheren Missionaries started a small elementary school at Vadakkankulam in 1916. The Christian Mission Service was started in 1968 with 14 boys. The Tirunelveli Area office started functioning from October 1986. The main object of the Home is to help the orphan and destitute children.

The area office is rendering service through the four children's Homes in Vadakkankulam, Kudankulam, Vallioor and Reddiyarpatti as well as the training Institute in Vadakkankulam, a Weaving Institute in Koodankulam, I.T.I. for girls in Vinobanagar and Printing Press in Palayamkottai. Except the Printing Press, the three training institutes in Vadakkankulam, Koodankulam and Vinobanagar have hostels attached to them. The Institutions run by the Mission with the year of their inauguration in parenthesis are listed below.[45]

1. C.M.S.Children's Home, Vallioor (1963)
2. C.M.S.Children's Home, Koodankulam (1965)
3. C.M.S.Children's Home, Reddiyarpatti (1968)
4. C.M.S.Children's Home, Vadakkankulam (1968)
5. C.M.S.Tailoring Institute, Vadakkankulam (1968)
6. C.M.S.Printing Press, Palayamkottai (1973)
7. C.M.S.Weaving Institute, Koodankulam (1975)
8. C.M.S.I.T.I.for girls, Vinobanagar (1980)

The Florence Swainson High School for the deaf

This is the third school of its kind in India and the first in South India started for the speed education of the deaf pupils. The Church of South India School for the Deaf in South India with three such girls was started by Miss.Florence Swainson in 1895, in Palayamkottai. This institution which functioned as the middle school up to 1978 was upgraded into Higher Secondary School in 1993.

This school is the largest residential institution for the deaf in Tamil Nadu State and it caters to the physical, mental, moral and social needs of about 560 inmates. Nearly 65 percent of the children are non-christians. The school has speech trainers and Mini-phonotors, voice light Micro process and Individual Hearing Aids for pre-school and First standard children and six sets of Infra-Red group Hearing Aids.

Pre-School: The main objective of the school is to develop speech and language. Purely oral method is followed and the children are motivated to use their residual hearing with the help of the individual hearing aids and induction loop system which is attached in the class room itself. The high and higher secondary school students are appearing for Government examination along with the hearing students. So ***Normal School Syllabus*** is followed in the school.

This institution also imparts vocational training in tailoring (for boys), needle work, dress making, embroidary (for girls), carpentary (for boys), book binding (for boys), electronic (for boys and girls) and two wheeler mechanism (for boys). Every year 30 students are going out of this Institution completing the vocational training. The outgoing trainees are supplied with sewing machines, binding tools and kit for electronic machines depending upon their requirement.[46]

Helan Flagrity Society for the Blind

The Society for the Blind has been functioning and rendering service to the disabled at T.Kallikulam in the District since 1991. The main object of the society is to render help in any form physical, intellectual, psychological, material or moral to blind people and physically handicapped.

To achieve these objectives the society undertakes measures for the relief and rehabilitation of the blind in areas suffering from natural calamities, maintains lending library with literature in braille and in languages for the benefit of both the blind; serves as an employment exchange for placing skilled blind workers in appropriate jobs and under sympathetic employers; sets up appropriate small scale and cottage industries or handicrafts to provide job oriented training and employment opportunities for the blind and raises funds through various means to utilise for the said purpose.

This society has chosen a project known as "Community based Rahabilitation" which has been introduced in 81 villages where 381 disabled persons are taken care of. Among them 64 are visually impaired. 49 are hearing impaired, 52 are mentally retarded and suffering from mental illness and 216 are orthopaedically disabled.[47]

Rotary Club of Courtallam

The Rotary Club of Courtallam, one of the oldest Rotary Clubs in the State, was started on 5, December 1955. It has hosted two District Assemblies and two District Conferences.

The club has been instrumental in starting the Girls' High School at Tenkasi, each member contributing rupees 1,000/- which was a large sum thirty years ago. The club has also constructed many bus shelters, dug many borewells and instituted various awards and rolling cups for schools. The club helps the poor at the time of distress in several ways.

The club has been in the forefront in immunising children, as part of the Polio plus programme of Rotary and 22,000 doses had been given to children during the time. This club constructed its permanent meeting places in the campus of Sri.Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam in 1980, its silver Jubilee year.[48]

Nava Jeevan Trust

Nava Jeevan Trust was established on 9, August 1985 in Veeramanikkapuram in the District. The Trust has a legal body consisting of five members from social action field. Advisory Committee also has been established for the better functioning of the organisation.The aims of the Trust are, to educate and organise small peasants, rural women, youth, beedi workers, and palmyra workers in order to enable them to participate in the building up of the new social order, where there will be justice, equality and freedom for all.

The Trust helps the youth to identify the local problems and create and develops their leadership qualities and their skills, educates the target groups on various Government welfare schemes and means to enjoy the benefits of the scheme; encourages the people on the need for forming associations or village committees, and provides legal assistance to the weaker sections of the society in the region.

The Trust implements various programmes, such as Pre-school education, Community organisation, Women's development, beedi workers development programme, Legal Education and Community Health in different blocks in the district. The activities are spread over in more than 200 villages. For the full time workers of various organisations the trust has organised training camps at different times.[49]

The District Club

The Club, started in the year 1935 in Palayamkottai which was registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860. It was started with the objectives (i) to promote social life, spirit of commandership and intellectual advancement amongst its members (ii) to provide facilities, guest room and canteen facilities etc.,

The constitution of the club consists of members who may be Patrons, Life members, Resident members, Non-resident members, Temporary members, women members and ward members. Patrons are exempt from paying admission and monthly subscription. Life members should pay Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) in one instalment on admission. They are exempt from entrance fees. For resident members and non-resident members, the entrance fees shall be Rs.100/- and women and ward members are exempt from the entrance fees.[50]

Resource Centre for Human Affairs

This Centre, is functioning since 1986 at Parvakkudi (Rural) with the objective to prevent poverty, eradicate illiteracy, promote health and development and conserve environment through appropriate training, research and service. The activities in Sankarankoil area are creating awareness on environment and ecology (bio-diversity), health, water and sanitation, nutrition and family welfare, through various multimedia channels. This institution has specialisations in mass communications, information education and communication (IEC) material production; population education, family welfare, AIDS, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, environment and income and generation etc., activities.[51]

Tirunelveli Sarvodaya Sangh

This is an affiliated unit of Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Sangh whose head office is at Tiruppur. This Sangh has been started with the intention to promote Khadi and village industries activities and to provide employment to rural folk who fall below poverty line. The activities of the Sangh are, production and sales of cotton khadi, silk khadi, khadi yarn, laundary soap, steel furniture, wooden goods, honey, footwear, leather goods, agarpathies, jawadu powder, camphor, garments, readymade goods, and handicraft products. The Sangh has 10 production centres and 13 sales centres in this district and their area of operation is in Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai taluks.[52]

The Muslim Orphanage

The Muslim Orphanage at Palayamkottai is a charitable institution which is doing valuable service to the Muslim orphan boys. Founded on 18, August 1957 with only six boys, the Orphanage has now grown to help 250 orphans - 160 boys and 90 girls who come from Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukkudi, Virudunagar and Ramanathapuram districts.

The Orphanage has a large campus and buildings of its own in the High grounds at Palayamkottai. The boys are given free clothing, food, and lodging, and education up to Higher Secondary level. The orphan girls are accommodated in the girls hostel. The girls hostel which is known as Muslim Girls' Educational Institution was started in the year 1963.

The inmates of the Hostel are sent to the adjoining schools, colleges, and Technical colleges where they receive education. On completing their education, they are helped to find jobs to earn their livelihood. This institute is run purely on the donations received from Philanthropists.[53]

Rural Welfare Centre

Rural Welfare Centre established as a Village Mahalir Mandram functions since 17th January 1985. It centered into social welfare activities for women and children. It has adopted 50 villages in Palayamkottai and manur Blocks. The Centre is arranging placement service and providing training programmes, in tailoring, embroidory, needle work, plastic flower and bag making, adult education, social forestry, economical and cultural development for the widows and deserving women. The Centre has also started English Medium Schools in some villages. It has conducted a complete survey of handicapped persons in Manur, Palayamkottai, Melaneelithanallur, Sankarankoil, Alangulam, Pavoor Chatram and Tenkasi Panchayat union areas in the District. A home and a primary Transitional School for the handicapped children is another feather in the Centre's cap.[54]

The Lions Club of Tirunelveli

The Lions Club of Tirunelveli was inaugurated in September 1959. This club runs a free sewing centre at Palayamkottai which trains women for lower and higher examinations in sewing. The club also helps the people in times of flood, famine, etc. It conducts free eye camps and supplies spectacles free of cost to the poor and the needy. Besides conducting competitions for the students of all colleges in the District, the Club presents two gold medals (one for English medium and one for Tamil medium) to the students of the district who secure the highest marks in the S.S.L.C. Examination.[55]

Tirunelveli Social Service Society

The Tirunelveli Social Service Society (TSSS) is a voluntary organisation under the aegies of the Roman Cathelic Diocese of Palayamkottai, working for the Welfare of the downtrodden since 1972, by implementing a number of welfare programmes. The society works for the development of underprevileged, marginalised people, landless agricultural labourers, people who are below the poverty line, youth women and child labourers. The motto of the society is *that they may have life.* The aims of the Society are, to build up people's organisation, to reduce child labour and to give awareness education and community health.

This organisation working in Palayamkottai is engaged in the welfare programmes like, feeding the poor, the aged and the handicapped in the region. The mid-day meal programmes of the Social Welfare Centre of the society alone covered 5200 children in 43 schools of this region. The

feeding programme covered 12 orphanages with nearly 200 wards. The mother and child welfare centres have been set up to provide services to about 1000 mothers and babies.

To begin with, the Society started welfare programmes such as School feeding, poor feeding, food for work, health camps and some relief programmes during emergency situation like flood and drought. From 1980 onwards the Society is engaged in adult education programme, community health programme, women development programme, small savings and other educational programmes. The integral development of child labourers has drawn the attention since 1987.The society is implementing a number of development programmes which are described below:-

(i) Vimala Grihini Training Centre: The Centre was started in 1977 at Kuruvikulam in the District. By the end of 1992, training for 30 batches were conducted with 696 young girls benefiting. These girls are taught to read and write, health and nutritien, ways to bring to their children and some skills like tailoring and plastic wire basketmaking etc., (ii)This society organises, to work for the development of rural people. 239 villages are covered under this programme.(iii) To organise women to work for their development Women Motivation Programme has been started. Under this programme 305 villages were covered during the year 1993. (iv) Development of child labour programme has started functioning in the District. (v) Under the Community health programme, health education is given to villagers, 12 dispensaries manned by qualified staff nurse and health workers function under this management. The society achieved in getting the housing colonies built, transport facilities, roads and drinking water facilities. It helped in obtaining loan for buying milchy cattle, running petty shops, securing sewing machines, etc.,[56]

(vi) *Saranalayam* a unit of the TSSS, has helped in a big way in rehabilitation of street children and preventing them from being exploited by anti-social elements.The centre has rehabilitated about 450 street children during the years 1994 and 1995.[57]

Social Change and Development

Social Change and Development (SCAD), a voluntary organisation was started at Cheranmahadevi in 1985, with the motto *Over all development in a village*.Initially the SCAD was concentrating its activities only in eight villages and at present it has expanded its activities to villages in the district. SCAD services are mainly for the upliftment of the ethnic groups like the scheduled castes, gypsies, snake-charmers, scavengers, palmyra workers, lepors and salt-pans workers. SCAD operation covers mainly three areas, namely education, health and community organisation and development. It has 82 supplementary schools, 21 balvadies and a formal school in the District. Altogether about 7915 students were studying

in these schools in 1995. There are 84 Mahalir mandrams, 15 Grame Sabhas, 12 Young Associations. 54 farmers associations and 82 small savings credit associations functioning. Besides health programmes have also been conducted at various levels in the district. There are, a Siddha clinic, Physiotherapy unit, one Homoeopathy clinic, and four health centres functioning in the region. Eye camps and general medical camps are also held twice a month.

It conducted income generating programmes, such as training in tailoring, typing, fibre products, cotton bag manufacturing, greeting cards, mushroom cultivation, sericulture and social forestry. Two colonies have been constructed for lepors benefiting 85 families by providing 30 pucca houses at Pettai and 17 houses at Ambasamudram.[58]

Arasan Rural Development Society (ARDS)

This Society was established in 1988 at Kalakad in Nanguneri taluk. Formation of mahalir mandram (Sangam) was the first step towards community organisation. So far 40 such sangams have been started. Every Sangam consists of 20-30 members. The members met once in a week. Encouraging small savings is one of the programmes of the sangam.

ARDS is arranging training programmes like typewriting and shorthand for the rural students under the support of the Central Social Welfare Board. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare extends financial support for the promotion of small family norm and population control. The society also conducts health programmes, awareness generation programmes, self employment and skill development programmes for the rural girls, men power development programmes, etc.[59]

Amar Seva Sangam

Amar Seva Sangam, Ayikudi is a Voluntary Social Sevice Organisation which was started on 15 June 1981 for the upliftment of poor and handicapped. This sangam running a home for handicapped persons. The admitted children in this home are being provided with required appliance thereby, walking practice, gait training, group exercise and periodical corrections to the persons according to their improvement and growth.

The Society also runs a school, for poor people. Siva Saraswathi Vidyalaya which was established on 26 June 1981 with five little children, has in the last 16 years growth to accomodate 300 children and a very large number of them are handicapped physically. The Sangam to organise a free coaching centre for poor and needy and adult education centre for illeterate persons in this region. The Social Welfare Sections conducts camps for polio immunisation, measles immunisation, eye camps, health camps etc. Besides this, it runs a residential home for polio affected children.

The following Voluntary Social Service Institutions also render their services to the District for the welfare of the weaker sections and needy.

1. Agasthiyar Social Welfare Organisation, Sambavar Vadakarai.
2. Brother of Sacred Heart, Palayamkottai.
3. Holy Family Home, Irudayakulam.
4. Indian Missionary Society, Tirunelveli.
5. Manila Tamil Sangam, Palayamkottai.
6. Meerabai Mahalir Nala Sangam, Mukkudal.
7. Nadar Valipar Sangam, Puliyangudi.
8. Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Tenkasi.
9. Servite Convent, Karuthapattiyur.
10. Society of St.Francis Xavier, Palayamkottai.
11. Swami Vivekananda Narpani Mandram, Keelapavoor.

APPENDIX - 1

1st General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha from composite Tirunelveli District.

1951-52

Sl No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total votes secured.*
1.	Palavoor	63050	31870	Congress	14067
2.	Nanguneri	75499	48003	-do-	24849
3.	Cheranmahadevi	71265	40545	-do-	18625
4.	Ambasamudram	76436	49927	IND.	21538
5.	Alangulam	76713	41322	Congress	13433
6.	Tenkasi	81944	59114	-do-	26340
7.	Sankarankoil	138896	97606	IND	56256
8.	Sankarankoil *	-do-	-do-	Congress	29967
9.	Tirunelveli	142467	74160	-do-	27156
10.	Tirunelveli *	-do-	-do-	-do-	32529
11.	Thoothukkudi	67856	41705	-do-	19728
12.	Tiruchendur	154748	58517	Praja.	25030
13.	Tiruchendur*	-do-	-do-	Congress.	22341
14.	Sattankulam	66988	35732	IND	12498
15.	Vilathikulam	63707	37313	Congress	18819
16.	Kovilpatti	74113	40810	-do-	24282
17.	Kadambur	75752	39284	-do-	17000
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	352281	194578	Congress	86077
2.	Srivaikuntam	353299	173272	-do-	107338
3.	Sankarankoil	373989	247969	-do-	96577

IND : Independent candidate.

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Return showing results of the General Elections in Madras State 1951-52 pages 168 - 169, 206.

APPENDIX - 2

IInd General Elections to Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly Lok Sabha from Composite Tirunelveli District - 1957

Sl No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total Votes secured*
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Kovilpatti	78,841	36,139	IND	11,425
2.	Kadambur	1,61,364	66,616	Congress	34,155
3.	Kadambur*	-do-	-do-	-do-	27,787
4.	Thoothukkudi	85,697	47,555	-do-	17,438
5.	Srivaikuntam	91,857	49,049	-do-	29,849
6.	Tiruchendur	99,432	47,480	-do-	30,106
7.	Sattankulam	1,01,233	59,156	IND	33,636
8.	Radhapuram	92,611	42,556	Congress	24,953
9.	Nanguneri	83,654	43,623	-do-	21,786
10.	Tirunelveli	1,73,695	74,887	Congress	38,839
11.	Tirunelveli*	-do-	-do-	-do-	29,648
12.	Ambasamudram	95,325	50,704	-do-	25,552
13.	Kadayam	89,030	58,896	IND	33,097
14.	Tenkasi	82,107	59,052	IND	31,145
15.	Alangulam	94,908	37,829	IND	19,458
16.	Sankarankovil	1,74,765	79,429	Congress	40,397
17.	Sankarankovil*	-do-	-do-	-do-	34,771
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tiruchendur	448411	Uncontested	Congress	
2.	Tirunelveli	445857	208476	Congress	105793
3.	Tenkasi	441227	246842	Congress	116715

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Public (Elections) Department.

General Election in Madras State - 1957

Election Data Analysis

APPENDIX - 3

IIIrd General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Composite Tirunelveli District - 1962.

Sl No.	Name of the Constituencies	Total Electo-rates-	Total votes polled	Successful Political party	Total Votes secured.
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Kovilpatti	81,603	61,177	Congress	22,158
2.	Kadambur	75,730	38,175	"	19,200
3.	Ottapidaram*	1,00,686	68,076	"	30,067
4.	Thoothukkudi	95,771	71,283	"	31,280
5.	Srivaikuntam	93,868	62,038	"	29,949
6.	Tirunelveli	96,617	70,430	"	25,985
7.	Gangaikontan*	89,573	50,257	"	17,548
8.	Alangulam	95,066	63,475	"	32,650
9.	Puliangudi	91,260	55,019	"	23,485
10.	Sankarankovil*	89,446	62,579	"	32,799
11.	Tenkasi	91,851	66,963	"	29,684
12.	Ambasamudram	91,722	67,820	"	25,883
13.	Kadayam	93,773	68,135	"	46,160
14.	Tiruchendur	1,01,280	68,868	"	39,944
15.	Sattankulam	98,219	63,477	"	43,428
16.	Radhapuram	96,640	63,150	"	42,334
17.	Nanguneri	86,398	64,968	"	28,548
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Kovilpatti	4,54,673	3,13,249	Congress	1,50,175
2.	Tirunelveli	4,70,895	3,18,371	"	1,51,822
3.	Tenkasi*	4,58,062	3,22,934	"	1,65,169
4.	Tiruchendur	4,60,766	Uncontested	"	–

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Report of General Elections - 1962. Page 233 - 286

APPENDIX - 4

IV General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Composite Tirunelveli District 1967

Sl No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total Votes secured.*
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Vilathikulam	84,925	63,795	DMK	23,905
2.	Kovilpatti	84,101	60,546	CPI	38,311
3.	Ottapidaram*	85,250	57,072	Swatantra	25,937
4.	Sankarankovil*	89,463	59,202	DMK	37,173
5.	Vasudevanallur*	92,896	67,403	DMK	33,865
6.	Kadayanallur	91,875	69,855	IND	36,349
7.	Tenkasi	85,611	69,318	INC	34,561
8.	Radhapuram	88,803	62,628	INC	31,588
9.	Alangulam	87,532	65,377	DMK	33,509
10.	Ambasamudram	88,528	66,196	INC	30,682
11.	Cheranmahadevi	85,484	67,322	Swatantra	36,206
12.	Gangaikontan*	91,348	58,393	DMK	34,797
13.	Tirunelveli	89,939	67,362	DMK	41,589
14.	Melapalayam	91,493	65,630	IND	36,123
15.	Srivaikuntam	93,271	66,848	DMK	41,828
16.	Thoothukkudi	92,641	69,044	DMK	41,851
17.	Tiruchendur	1,05,055	70,671	DMK	39,619
18.	Sathankulam	91,835	59,306	INC	31,143
19.	Nanguneri	92,044	62,366	INC	33,229
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	5,43,942	3,88,325	Swatantra	1,86,861
2.	Tenkasi*	5,35,905	4,01,617	INC	1,66,737
3.	Tiruchendur	5,48,775	3,90,399	Swatantra	1,83,057

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Report of General Election - 1967 Vol.III p.345 - 46

Report of General Election - 1967 Vol.II p.305 - 306

APPENDIX - 5

V General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Composite Tirunelveli District 1971.

Sl. No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total votes secured*
1.	Vilathikulam	90,503	50,834	DMK	32,583
2.	Kovilpatti	92,524	62,490	CPI	38,844
3.	Ottapidaram*	88,081	48,442	F.Bloc	27,571
4.	Sankarankovil*	93,951	57,696	DMK	35,677
5.	Vasudevanallur*	99,614	63,123	DMK	35,954
6.	Kadayanallur	96,720	71,728	DMK	37,649
7.	Tenkasi	92,660	70,260	DMK	39,110
8.	Alangulam	93,471	71,214	DMK	36,526
9.	Ambasamudram	94,781	67,047	INC	31,192
10.	Cheranmahadevi	91,676	69,285	Swatantra	34,739
11.	Gangaikondan	95,985	56,032	DMK	32,963
12.	Tirunelveli	1,03,204	69,698	DMK	43,325
13.	Melapalayam	96,761	62,519	IND	35,470
14.	Srivaikuntam	98,701	67,938	DMK	37,329
15.	Thoothukkudi	1,01,713	68,503	DMK	39,030
16.	Tiruchendur	1,13,305	74,665	DMK	39,974
17.	Sattankulam	97,967	64,789	DMK	33,510
18.	Nanguneri	97,502	65,962	DMK	33,099
19.	Radhapuram	95,720	65,167	DMK	33,678
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	5,84,445	3,80,718	CPI	2,14,214
2.	Tenkasi*	5,71,197	4,02,276	INC	2,23,182
3.	Tiruchendur	5,89,553	4,11,385	DMK	2,02,783

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Report of the Fifth General Elections in Tamilnadu 1971- Vol.II & III pp.278, 351.

APPENDIX - 6

VI General Election to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Composite Tirunelveli District 1977

Sl No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total Votes secured.*
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Vilathikulam	1,14,715	66,125	ADMK	25,384
2.	Ottapidaram*	1,05,342	54,517	INC	22,629
3.	Kovilpatti	1,07,794	67,140	CPI	21,985
4.	Sankarankoil*	1,21,097	62,965	DMK	21,569
5.	Vasudevanallur*	1,21,099	60,418	CPM	20,092
6.	Kadayanallur	1,08,473	75,625	ADMK	29,347
7.	Tenkasi	1,12,800	73,194	INC	30,273
8.	Alangulam	1,14,602	70,987	ADMK	20,183
9.	Tirunelveli	1,16,395	68,622	ADMK	26,419
10.	Palayamkottai	1,10,603	66,087	ADMK	29,146
11.	Cheranmahadevi	1,02,377	68,635	ADMK	20,256
12.	Ambasamudram	99,927	66,110	CPM	23,356
13.	Nanguneri	1,20,256	67,359	Janatha	18,668
14.	Radhapuram	1,19,865	68,265	ADMK	26,404
15.	Sattankulam	1,36,771	67,101	Janatha	18,362
16.	Tiruchendur	1,39,451	71,642	ADMK	20,871
17.	Srivaikuntam	1,12,893	65,390	ADMK	20,459
18.	Thoothukkudi	1,24,642	80,565	ADMK	23,598
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	6,72,649	4,36,228	ADMK	3,04,561
2.	Tenkasi*	6,73,825	4,40,655	INC	3,05,069
3.	Tiruchendur	7,12,718	4,45,853	INC	2,72,338

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source: Report on the Sixth General Election to Loksabha pp.552-555.

APPENDIX - 7

VII General Elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Composite Tirunelveli District -1980.

Sl No.	Name of the Constituencies	Total Electo-rates-	Total votes polled	Successful Political party	Total Votes secured
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Vilathikulam	1,16,765	75,766	.AIADMK	40,728
2.	Ottapidaram*	1,09,571	63,464	C.P.I	33,071
3.	Kovilpatti	1,13,218	76,771	C.P.I	39,442
4.	Sankarankoil*	1,21,949	65,107	AIADMK	31,818
5.	Vasudevanallur*	1,16,791	65,541	C.P.I(M)	33,107
6.	Kadayanallur	1,10,404	75,380	IND	38,225
7.	Tenkasi	1,14,840	73,457	AIADMK	36,638
8.	Alangulam	1,15,519	76,604	G.K.C	41,721
9.	Tirunelveli	1,20,570	83,394	AIADMK	48,338
10.	Palayamkottai	1,16,635	77,729	AIADMK	45,049
11.	Cheranmahadevi	1,05,348	74,274	AIADMK	42,793
12.	Ambasamudram	1,04,484	65,966	C.P.I(M)	31,262
13.	Nanguneri	1,19,072	70,383	AIADMK	36,725
14.	Radhapuram	1,16,959	70,519	G.K.C	38,044
15.	Sattankulam	1,23,284	59,900	G.K.C	24,700
16.	Tiruchendur	1,32,757	71,730	AIADMK	35,499
17.	Srivaikuntam	1,11,712	67,968	AIADMK	26,502
18.	Thoothukkudi	1,42,776	94,032	AIADMK	54,171
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	7,02,603	4,75,645	D.M.K	2,56,626
2.	Tenkasi*	6,79,386	4,47,818	I.N.C	2,72,260
3.	Tiruchendur	7,04,399	4,45,880	I.N.C	2,27,395

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Report of the seventh General Election to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - 1980 pp-111-114 Result on General Election to Loksabha - 1980 pp.75-80

APPENDIX - 8

VIII General Elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Composite Tirunelveli District 1984.

Sl No.	Name of the Constituencies	Total Electo-rates-	Total votes polled	Successful Political party	Total Votes secured
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Vilathikulam	1,21,435	80,153	D.M.K	32,481
2.	Ottapidaram*	1,10,962	68,033	I.N.C	46,190
3.	Kovilpatti	1,20,666	81,840	I.N.C	45,623
4.	Sankarankoil*	1,30,144	88,907	AIADMK	48,411
5.	Vasudevanallur*	1,20,134	80,686	I.N.C	50,503
6.	Kadayanallur	1,21,405	92,044	AIADMK	49,186
7.	Tenkasi	1,23,902	94,312	I.N.C	57,011
8.	Alangulam	1,24,914	88,294	AIADMK	48,109
9.	Tirunelveli	1,29,277	94,687	AIADMK	56,409
10.	Palayamkottai	1,27,308	87,068	DMK	45,209
11.	Cheranmahadevi	1,12,131	82,874	AIADMK	55,898
12.	Ambasamudram	1,13,413	81,658	AIADMK	44,717
13.	Sattankulam	1,25,821	70,573	IND	37,892
14.	Tiruchendur	1,42,623	90,630	AIADMK	45,953
15.	Srivaikuntam	1,16,124	77,226	I.N.C	41,513
16.	Thoothukkudi	1,52,824	1,05,442	AIADMK	59,622
17.	Radhapuram	1,24,210	74,484	G.K.C	40,213
18.	Nanguneri	1,22,639	79,014	AIADMK	48,825
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	7,57,930	5,15,091	AIADMK	2,96,897
2.	Tenkasi*	7,35,912	5,29,467	I.N.C	3,60,517
3.	Tiruchendur	7,49,008	4,84,579	I.N.C	3,45,381

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Report on the Eighth General Elections to Lok Sabha and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly 1984 pp.135-137, 186.

APPENDIX - 9

IX General Elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Tirunelveli District 1989.

Sl No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total Votes secured*
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Sankarankoil*	1,47,593	1,66,581	D.M.K	46,886
2.	Vasudevanallur*	1,35,907	99,816	I.N.C	30,805
3.	Kadayanallur	1,38,368	1,02,230	D.M.K	37,531
4.	Tenkasi	1,43,876	1,09,248	I.N.C	39,643
5.	Alangulam	1,40,927	1,09,598	I.N.C	31,314
6.	Tirunelveli	1,49,539	1,06,862	D.M.K	37,991
7.	Palayamkottai	1,51,200	98,943	D.M.K	34,046
8.	Cheranmahadevi	1,24,735	96,494	AIADMK(T)	26,113
9.	Ambasamudram	1,25,960	91.721	I.N.C	31,337
10.	Nanguneri	1,42,173	94,837	D.M.K	30,222
11.	Radhapuram	1,43,444	91,424	I.N.C	29,432
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	9,70,787	6,06,767	AIADMK	3,94,444
2.	Tenkasi*	9,33,214	6,28,887	I.N.C	3,93,075

* : Reserved constituencies for Scheduled castes.

Source :Report on the Ninth General Election to Tamilnadu Legislative Assembly 1989 pp.163-167

Report on Ninth General Election to Lok Sabha 1989 pp. 98-100

APPENDIX-10

X General Election to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Loksabha from Tirunelveli District 1991.

Sl No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electo-rates-*	*Total votes polled*	*Successful Political party*	*Total Votes secured*
	Legislative Assembly				
1.	Sankarankoil *	1,63,079	1,09,938	AIADMK	65,620
2.	Vasudevanallur*	1,49,712	97,839	I.N.C	54,688
3.	Kadayanallur	1,52,327	1,02,556	AIADMK	55,681
4.	Tenkasi	1,61,652	1,08,739	I.N.C	65,142
5.	Alangulam	1,57,887	1,09,658	I.N.C	66,637
6.	Tirunelveli	1,65,240	1,02,277	AIADMK	63,138
7.	Palayamkottai	1,69,762	1,00,522	AIADMK	45,141
8.	Cheranmahadevi	1,39,906	93,820	AIADMK	59,358
9.	Ambasamudram	1,42,041	90,830	AIADMK	57,433
10.	Nanguneri	1,57,676	92,304	AIADMK	65,514
11.	Radhapuram	1,59,398	85,712	I.N.C	51,331
	Lok Sabha				
1.	Tirunelveli	9,69,816	5,78,278	AIADMK	3,51,048
2.	Tenkasi*	9,27,357	6,19,637	I.N.C	3,81,721

* : Reserved Constituencies for Scheduled Castes.

தமிழரசு - 1 - July 1991 - p.64.

Source : Results on General Election to TamilNadu Legislative Assembly 1991

Appendix - 11

XI. General Elections to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha from Tirunelveli District, 1996.

Sl.No.	*Name of the Constituencies*	*Total Electorates*	*Total No. of Valid*	*Successful Political Party Votes*	*Total No. of Votes Secured*
		Legislative Assembly			
1.	Sankarankoil *	1,73,536	1,11,752	AIADMK	37,933
2.	Vasudevanallur*	1,53,308	1,00,597	TMC(M)	32,693
3.	Kadayanallur	1,59,882	1,06,563	DMK	49,641
4.	Tenkasi	1,73,529	1,15,038	TMC(M)	60,758
5.	Alangulam	1,67,697	1,15,771	DMK	63,374
6.	Tirunelveli	1,70,377	1,14,165	DMK	59,914
7.	Palayamkottai	1,86,638	1,13,210	DMK	71,303
8.	Cheranmahadevi	1,45,196	98,977	TMC(M)	39,004
9.	Ambasamudram	1,44,992	94,324	DMK	46,116
10.	Nanguneri	1,62,580	92,737	CPI	37,342
11.	Radhapuram	1,67,731	98,294	TMC(M)	45,808
		Lok Sabha			
1.	Tirunelveli	1023826	6,47,991	DMK	2,95,001
2.	Tenkasi*	972944	6,46,165	TMC(M)	2,90,663

* : Reserved for Scheduled Caste.

Source : Report on General Elections, 1996.

Volume II, Eleventh General Elections to Lok Sabha and Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, 1996.

APPENDIX - 12

Total number of Electorates - Constituency-wise as in 1996

Sl No.		*Number and Name of the Assembly Constituency*	*Men*	*Women*	*Total*
1.	213	Sankarankoil*	85,009	88,527	1,73,536
2.	214	Vasudevanallur*	74,977	78,331	1,53,308
3.	215	Kadayanallur	79,601	80,281	1,59,882
4.	216	Tenkasi	86,215	87,314	1,73,529
5.	217	Alangulam	81,382	86,335	1,67,697
6.	218	Tirunelveli	85,183	85,194	1,70,377
7.	219	Palayamkottai	92,080	94,558	1,86,638
8.	220	Cheranmahadevi	70,207	74,899	1,45,196
9.	221	Ambasamudram	71,062	73,930	1,44,992
10.	222	Nanguneri	79,079	83,501	1,62,580
11.	223	Radhapuram	82,449	85,282	1,67,731
		Tirunelveli District	8,87,344	9,18,152	18,05,496

APPENDIX - 13

Educational Qualifications of the Elected Members in Tirunelveli District

Number of Members Elected

Sl. No.	Educational Qualifications	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
		G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.	G.E.
1.	Literate	2	8	–	N.A.	N.A.	–	1	2	–	–
2.	Middle School	4	1	6	N.A.	N.A.	5	2	4	2	1
3.	Matriculation or S.S.L.C. - or Higher Secondary	4	3	7	N.A.	N.A.	4	5	3	1	1
4.	Intermediate	1	–	1	N.A.	N.A.	4	2	2	–	1
5.	Degrees or Diploma	6	5	2	N.A.	N.A.	5	8	7	–	–
	District Total	17	17	17	–	–	18	18	18	11	11

N.A. – Not Available

G.E. – General Electrons to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

APPENDIX - 14

Name of the Constituencies		*Names of Elected Members*		
		1951-52	*1957*	*1962*
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*
Legislative Assembly				
1.	Palavoor	Ganapathy.T	–	–
2.	Nanguneri	Sankar.M.G	Sankar.M.G	Sankar.M.G.
3.	Cheranmahadevi	Chellapandi.S		
4.	Ambasamudram	Chokkalingam.P	Gomathi-Sankara Deekshidhar	Gomathi-Sankara Deekshidhar
5.	Alangulam	Chinnathambi	Velusamy-thevar	Velusamy-thevar
6.	Tenkasi	Subramaniam Pillai	Sattanatha Karayalar.K	Subbiah-Mudaliyar.
7.	Sankarankoil	Ramasundra Karunalaya Pandyan	A.R.Subbiah Mudaliyar	Majid.S.M.A.
8.	Sankarankoil (SC)	Urkavalan	Urkavalan	–
9.	Tirunelveli	Somayajulu	Rajathi-Kunjitha-patham	Rajathi-Kunjitha-patham
10.	Tirunelveli(SC)	Arumugam	Soma-sundaram	
11.	Thoothukkudi	Roche Victoria J.L.P	Ponnusamy Nadar.	Ponnusamy
12.	Tiruchendur	Adithyan.S.B	Selvaraj.M.S	Selvaraj.M.S.
13.	Tiruchendur(SC)	Arumugam.V.	–	–
14.	Sathankulam	Kosalram.K.T	Adityan.S.B	Kosalram.K.T.
15.	Vilathikulam	Selvaraj.P.	–	–
16.	Kovilpatti	Ramasamy	Suppaya Naicker.V.	Venugobala Krishnasamy.N.V.

APPENDIX - 14 (Contd.)

	1	2	3	4
17.	Kadambur	Venugobala Krishnasamy	Ramasubbu.K	–
18.	Kadambur	–	Sangili.S. (SC)	Sangili.S.
19.	Srivaikuntam	–	Veerapagu. A.P.C	Veerapagu A.P.C
20.	Kadayam	–	Athimoolam. D.S.	Balagan.A.B.
21.	Radhapuram	–	Thomas.A.V.	Soundra-pandian.N.
22.	Ottapidaram	–	–	Ramakrishna-naicker.A.C.
23.	Gangaikondan	–	–	Arumugam. R.S
24.	Puliangudi	–	–	Orkavala-Kudumpan
		Lok Sabha		
1.	Tirunelveli	Thanupillai.P.T	Thanupillai.P.T	Muthiah
2.	Srivaikuntam	A.V.Thomas	–	–
3.	Sankarankoil	M.Sankara-pandian	–	–
4.	Tiruchendur	–	T.Ganapathy	T.Krishnama-chari
5.	Tenkasi	–	M.Sankara-pandian	M.R.Swamy
6.	Koilpatti	–	–	Balakrishnan

APPENDIX - 15

	Name of the Constituencies	*Names of Elected Members* 1967	1971
	1	*2*	3
Legislative Assembly			
1.	Vilathikulam	Rathina Sabhapathy.M	Subbu.K
2.	Koilpatti	Alagarsamy.S.	Alagarsamy.S.
3.	Ottapidaram	Muthiah.M	Muthiah.M
4.	Sankarankoil	Durairaj.P	Subbiah.S.
5.	Vasudevanallur	Velladurai.A.	Velladurai.A.
6.	Kadayanallur	Subbiah Mudaliar	Subbiah Mudaliar
7.	Tenkasi	Chidambaram Pillai.I.A	Kathiravan @ Somasundaram. K.M.
8.	Radhapuram	Sounthirapandian.N.	Karthesan.V.
9.	Alangulam	Arunachalam.V.	Arunachalam.V.
10.	Ambasamudram	Gomathi Sankara Dikshidar	Soma Sundara Thevar.S.
11.	Cheranmahadevi	Athimoolam.D.S.	Sivaprakasam. D.S.A.
12.	Gangaikontan	Karuppiah.A.	Karuppiah.A.
13.	Tirunelveli	Subramanian.A.L.	Padmanabhan.P.
14.	Melapalayam	Peer Mohammed.M.M.	Mohamed Khathr Mohideen.S.
15.	Srivaikuntam	Adhithanar	Adhithanar
16.	Thoothukkudi	Sivasamy	Ramalingam.R.
17.	Tiruchendur	Edmund Fernando	Edmund.
18.	Sathankulam	Martin	Kandasamy.
19.	Nanguneri	Duraipandian	Ganapathy.P.
Lok Sabha			
1.	Tirunelveli	Xavier.S.	Muruganantham. S.A
2.	Tenkasi	Arumugam.R.S.	Chellachamy.A.M.
3.	Tiruchendur	Santhosam.M.	Sivasamy.M.S.

APPENDIX - 16

Sl. no.	Name of the Constituencies	Names of Elected Members 1977	1980	1984
	1	2	3	4
1.	Vilathikulam	Perumal.R.K.	Perumal.R.K	Kumara Guruparar Ramanathan.
2.	Ottapidaram	Velusamy.O.S.	Appadurai.M.	Arumugam. R.S.
3.	Kovilpatti	Alagarsamy.S.	Alagarsamy.S.	Rangasamy. R.
4.	Sankarankoil	Subbiah.S.	Durairaj.P.	Sankara-lingam. S.
5.	Vasudevanallur	Krishnan.R.	Krishnan.R.	Eswaran.R.
6.	Kadayanallur	Razak.M.M.A.	Sahul Hammed.A	Perumal.T.
7.	Tenkasi	Muthusamy Karayalar.S	Sattanatha Karayalar.K.	Venkatraman. T.R.
8.	Alangulam	Karuppasamy Pandiyan.V.	Navaneetha Pandiyan.R.	Shanmugiah Pandiyan.
9.	Tirunelveli	Edmund.G.R	Nedun-chezhian.V.R.	Narayanan. S.
10.	Palayamkottai	Manokaran.K.	Karuppasamy Pandyan.V	Shansul Alam.V.S.T
11.	Cheranmaha-devi	Pandiyan.P.H.	Pandiyan.P.H.	Pandiyan. P.H.
12.	Ambasamu-dram	Eswara-moorthy @ Sornam	Eswara-moorthy @ Sornam	Balasubra-manian.S
13.	Nanguneri	John Vincent.M.	John Vincent.M.	John Vincent.M.
14.	Radhapuram	Yusuf.Y.S.M.	Muthurama-lingam.E.	Kumari Anandan
15.	Sathankulam	Jebamani.R.	Ramasamy.S.M	Ramasamy. S.M.

16.	Tiruchendur	Amirtharaj.R.	Kesava Athithan.S.	Subramania Athithan.S.R
17.	Srivaikuntam	Sathu Selvaraj.K.	Rama Subramanian	Danialraj.S.
18.	Thoothukkudi	Dhanasekaran.N.	Rajendran.S.N.	Rajendran. S.N.

Lok Sabha

1.	Tirunelveli	Arunachalam.V	Sivaprakasam.D.S.A	–
2.	Tenkasi	Arunachalam.M	Arunachalam.M	–
3.	Tiruchendur	Kosalram.K.T.	Kosalram.K.T.	–

APPENDIX - 17

	Name of the Constituencies	Names of Elected Members		
		1989	*1991*	*1996*
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*
Legislative Assembly:				
1.	Sankarankoil	Thangavelu.S.	Gobalakrishnan.V	Karuppaswamy.C
2.	Vasudevanallur	Eswaran.R.	Eswaran.R.	Eswaran.R.
3.	Kadayanallur	Samsudeen @ Kathiravan	Nagoor Meeran.R.	Nainar Mohamed.K.
4.	Tenkasi	Peter Alphones.S	Peter Alphones.S	Ravi Arunan.K.
5.	Alangulam	Rama Subbu.S.S	Rama Subbu.S.S	Aladi Aruna
6.	Tirunelveli	Subramaniam.A.L	Velaiah.D.	Subramanian.A.L
7.	Palayamkottai	Gurunathan.S	Dharmalingam.P. Maideen	Mohamed Kadar
8.	Cheranmahadevi	Pandiyan.P.H.	Puthu Nainar Adithan.R.	Veldurai. P.
9.	Ambasamudram	Ravi Arunan.K.	Murugiah-Pandyan	Auvudaiappan. R

APPENDIX - 17 (Contd.)

Name of the Constituencies		*Names of Elected Members*		
		1989	*1991*	*1996*
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*
10.	Nanguneri	Achiyur-Mani.M.	Natesan Paulraj	krishnan.S.V
11.	Radhapuram	Ramani Nalla-thambi.Smt.	Ramani Nalla-thambi.Smt.	Appavu.M.
		Lok Sabha		
1.	Tirunelveli	Janarthanam.M.R	Janarthanam .M.R	Siva pra-kasam. D.S.
2.	Tenkasi	Arunachalam.M.	Arunachalam M.	Aruna - chalam. M.

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CHAPTER-17

PLACES OF INTEREST

Any place in the world is dull and drab if it fails to attract human attention either through its bounteous natural beauty or through some splendid work by human hand. Nature is very gracious in decorating this earth with her natural beauty. Man with the given tool has converted this world to his own advantage to remain as a landmark to spark his own glory and as an entity to preserve the culture of the human society.

One such creation, the land mark left by human beings in Tamil Nadu is temple institution which played a vital role exposing the greatness of our culture, civilisation, art and architecture juxtaposed with social conditions. It is not only the architects hardwork for congregation but it is the hub of the life of Tamils. Around it revolves the social, economic and spiritual life of the community. It caters not merely to the spiritual aspects but also to the physical aspects. The pattern of our Town Planning itself shows this where temple is considered to be the centre. Life flows in concentric circles until we reach the outer ring of swaying corn fields from which the community draws its sustenance. Where there is no temple there is no real cultural life, no healthy social fabric and no adequate economic foundation.

Every temple had its library known as Saraswathy Pandaram. In this sacred place there were a number of Ramanuja Koodams for feeding the poor. The large mass of inscriptions during the Vijayanagar Emperors show that temples were the pivotal points of economic reconstruction. Almost every large benefaction (Nibandams) that poured into the temple treasury was invariably for the improvement of agricultural conditions, for construction of new and for repairing the old works of irrigation. The dumb cattle too had their share of attention and the livestock improved and multiplied through Pasumadams. In short it is an institution, a symbol of national solidarity and a sign of prosperity of the people. It is a museum and a college. It serves as a source of history for the future.

Tirunelveli district is abundant with temples especially that of Lord Siva. It is not that temples for Lord Vishnu are totally absent but several of them are also found. A combined temple for both Siva and Vishnu is located at Sankaranayinarkoil, a phenomenon found no where-else. There are temples big and small, old and new in towns and in villages, in forests, on hills and along river banks. Most of them are antique and are believed to have been built in the time of the Pandya Kings of Madura.[1]

Apart from temples, Tirunelveli has many important places. In the Western Ghats is Mount Pothigai, where the famous Tamil saint Agasthiar lived prior to the Sangam Age. Tamil literature points to Mount Pothigai as

the birth place of the Tamil language. Saint Agasthiar is believed to have compiled a grammar text for Tamil here. It is often said that it is in Tirunelveli district alone that Tamil is spoken grammatically and clearly. This district was in the forefront during freedom struggle and took stern steps to drive away the British. Palayakaran of Nelkattum Seval and Puli Thevan played a vital role in evoking the spirit of freedom among his people.

The Tirunelveli culture is inextricably bound with Tamiraparani, its myths and legends, literature, philosophy, spiritual arkesis, economy, religion, art and architecture have all of them rich veins of Tamiraparani, ethos embedded within. It is not surprising that she is the life giver of this district.

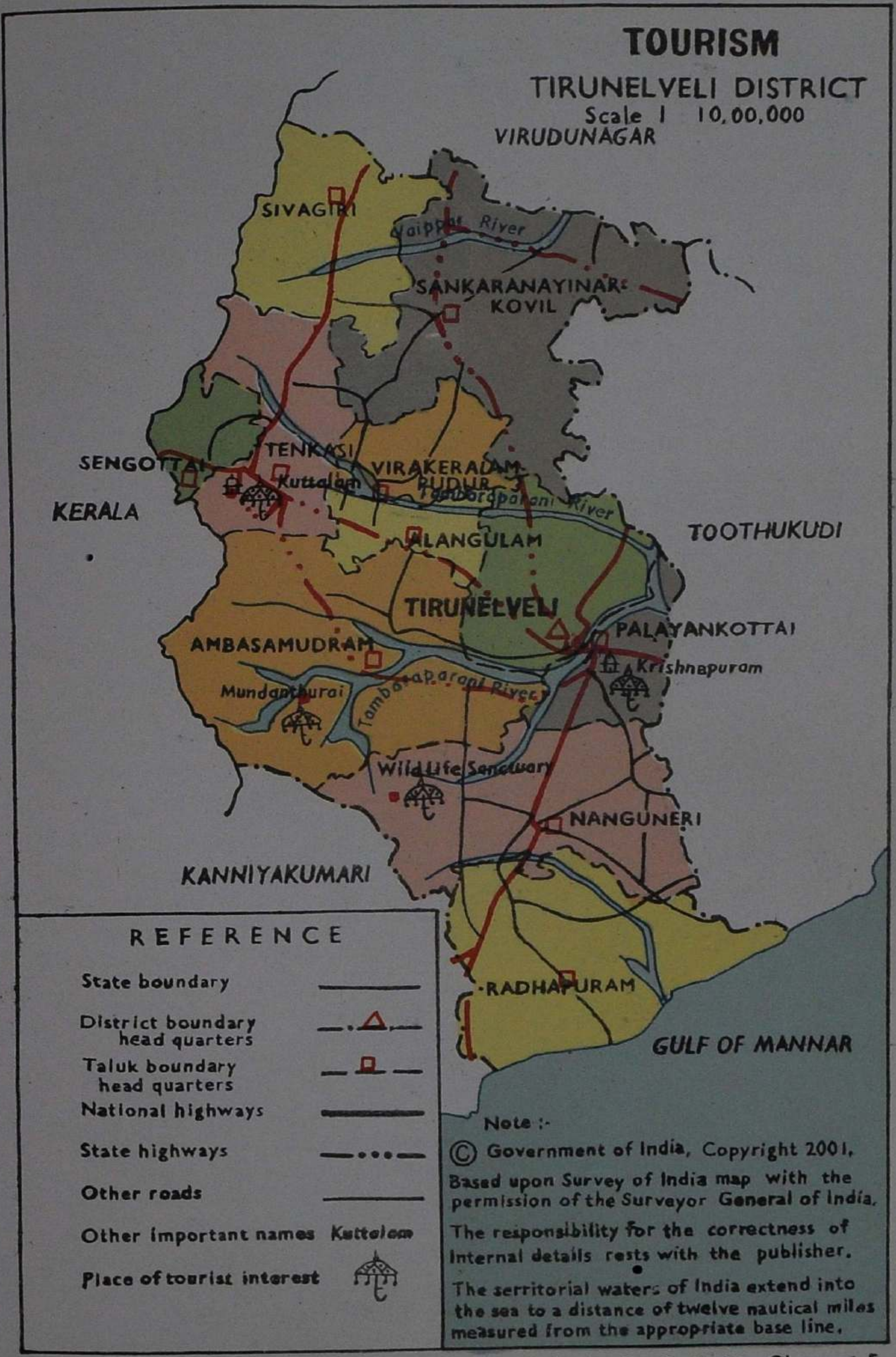
Courtallam is considered to be the best health resort for the middle income group since these falls are having medicinal values. Thus, Tirunelveli district is rich in temples, mosques, churches, health resorts, beautiful rivers, mountains and sanctuaries. The most important aspects among them are portrayed in this chapter elaborately.

Ambasamudram(Ambasamudram taluk)

Ambasamudram which is the taluk headquarter is 35 km. from Tirunelveli . There are four ancient temples in this town dedicated to Lord Siva, namely , Kasiba Nathar temple in the south, Thirumala Nathar temple in the west, Veeramarthandar temple in the east and Ammaiappar temple in the north. Apart from these, many small temples devoted to Lord Vinayakar, Lord Murugan and other deities, can also be seen.

The Kasibanathar temple which is very big, is said to be of 1000 years old. Since Sage Kasibar is believed to have offered worship here, the presiding deity is called Kasibanathar. The length and breadth of this temple is 440′ x 260′. We find two prakarams in this temple. The stone inscriptions found in this temple mention about an incident in which a priest who denied having a thing while he was in possession of it was burnt by the God. So he was called by the name "Erichaludaiyar" or the God who burnt one by fire.

The divine consort is known as Maragathavalli. The Tamiraparani river which flows a few yards away on the southern side of the temple has six sacred ghats here for bathing. We can find Lord Viswanathar, Goddess Visalakshi and Vinayakar in separate sanctums in the outer prakara. Similarly, in the inner prakara, there are number of deities. The temple has six vimanas. The two huge doors of the main entrance have carvings describing the scenes from our epics Ramayana and Mahabharatha. There are many inscriptions on the walls of this temple which denote the endowments and gifts made to the shrine. Poojas are performed seven times a day. The ten day Brahmothsavam in Panguni (March-April) is the important festival of the temple.



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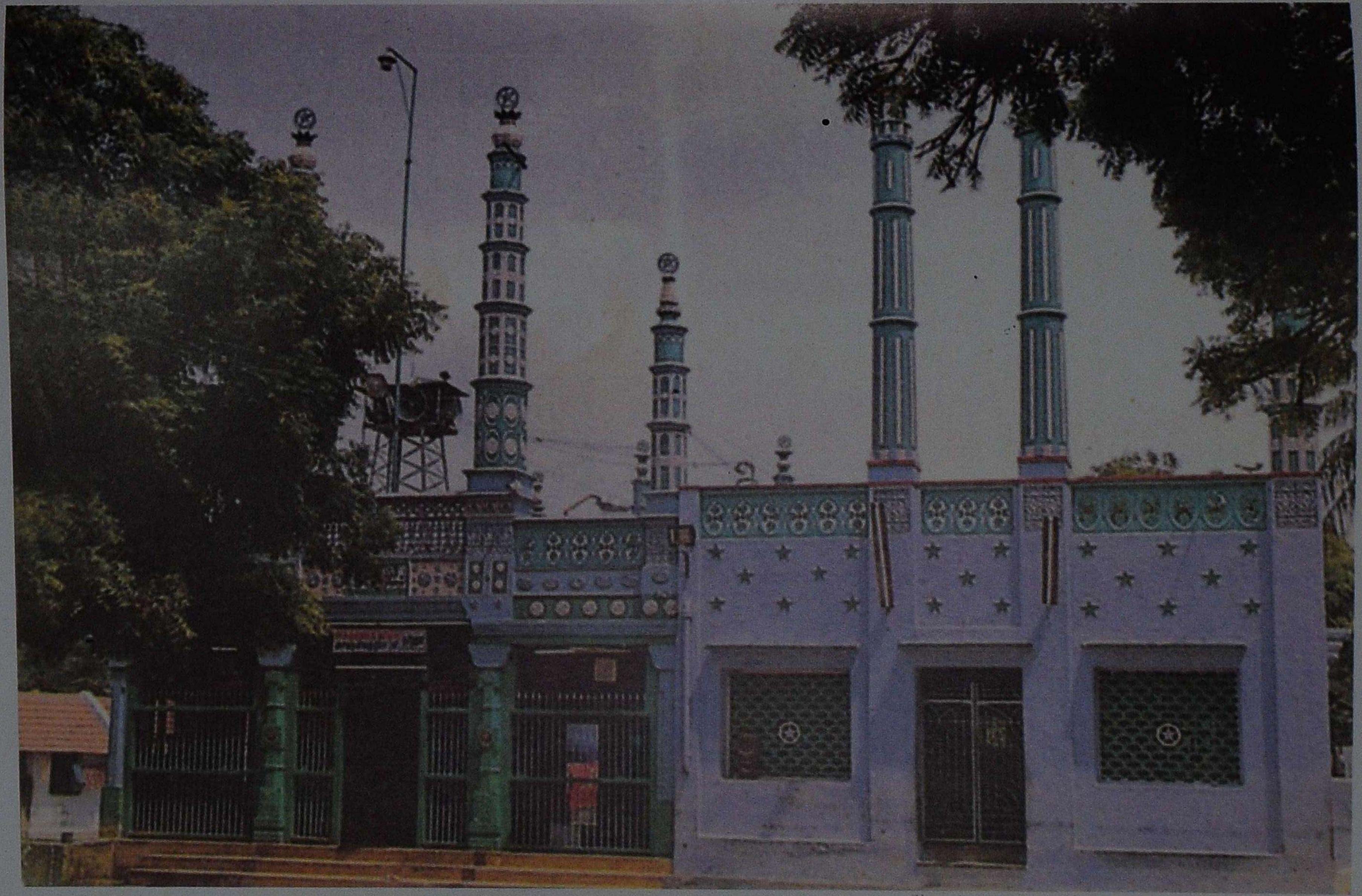
Map Reproduced as per the information furnished by the Indentor.

Courtallanathar Temple, Courtallam

St. Xavier's Church, Palayamkottai



Athangarai Pallivasal mosque at Radhapuram Taluk

Thirumulanathaswamy temple

The Thirumulanathaswamy temple is said to be 1000 years old. It measures about 195′ x 234′. The presiding deity, a Swayambulingam, is called Thirumulanathar. The divine consort is Ulagammai. Sage Agasthya offered worship to this lingam. Garbagraham, Artha mandapam and Maha mandapam are found in this temple. In the Prakaram of this temple, we come across Vinayakar, Dakshinamoorthy and other deities.This temple was renovated and consecrated 45 years ago. The pillars exhibit beautiful workmanship. In this temple, poojas are performed seven times a day. The biggest festival of this shrine takes place in the month of Ani (June-July). Inscriptions refer to the temple as *Thiru Chalai Thurai.*

Veeramarthandeswarar temple

This is another small but ancient temple, which has both Inner and Outer prakaras. The divine consort here is called Nithya Kalyani.To the south west of the temple is the temple tank, in the middle of which is a mantapa. The theertham here is called Harihara theertham. In the inner prakara of the temple a number of deities including Vinayakar and Subramaniar can be seen. There is a separate shrine for Hariharaputhra in the outer prakara. The pillars are intricately designed with excellent carvings. Poojas are performed twice daily.

Ammaiappan temple

This is a small temple constructed in an area of 199′x 206′. The divine consort here is known as Sakunthakunthalambal. . This temple contains sanctum sanctorum (Garbagraham), Artha Mandapam and Mahamandapam. The temple has a Vimana but not any prakaras. Poojas are performed twice daily. Arasadi Vinayakar, Kanni Vinayakar and Sundara Vinayakar temples are administered along with these four Siva temples. Vinayaka Chathurthi festival is celebrated in a grand scale in these temples.

Apart from Siva and Vinayaka temples, this town proudly possesses four temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu. These temples are Krishnaswamy temple in the east, Purushothama Perumal temple in the south, Thennazhagar temple at Kovilkalam in the north and Lakshmi Narayana Perumal temple in the heart of the town. There is a temple for Hanuman, situated on the bank of the river Tamiraparani in the town.

Krishnaswamy temple

The Krishnaswami temple, though small, is a beautiful one and it measures about 200′x 107′. It is said to be 500 years old. It has single prakara and contains Artha mandapam, Mahamandapam and Mani mandapam. To the north-west of the temple is a beautiful tank known as Harihara theertham with a small mandapam at its centre with beautiful

images of Lord Siva and Krishna. There are shenbaga and padini trees inside the temple. The presiding deity of the temple Venugopala krishnaswamy is in the standing posture and playing flute. His divine consorts are Rukmani and Sathiabama. The beautiful images of Poigai Alwar , Peyalwar, Bhudhathalwar, Thirumangai Alwar, Perialwar, Kulasekara Alwar, Thondaradipodialwar, Thirupanalwar, Madhurakavialwar, Udayavar, Manavala Mamunigal and Hanuman are found in the Prakara of the temple. We can find the beautifully painted ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu on the gigantic corridors of the temple. The panchalogam idols of Sri Krishna, Nachiar, Chakkarathalwar, and King Thirumangai depict the artistic skill of the artisans.

This temple is possessing a big car, palanquin and vahanas like Garuda, Lion, Horse,Elephant, Hanuman and Adisesha. Brahmothsavam in Vaikasi (May-June) and Vaikunta Ekadasi in Margazhi (December-January) are the important celebrations in this temple and these celebrations are witnessed by more than 5000 devotees from various parts of the district.

Purushothama Perumal temple

It is an old shrine where the presiding deity Purushothama Perumal offers a grand darshan on a garuda vahana over the Adisesha. This is a beautifully carved image in a single block of granite. The divine consort is Alamelu Mangai Nachiar. This temple consists of a single prakara with a sanctum sactorum and an Artha Mandapam. There are three sacred waters here, viz. Gangai, Yamunai and Saraswathi, popularly known as Pongu theertham, to the south-west of the temple. Its original name is Mukkunda theertham and Purushothama theertham. As per legend, these fountains were created by the ancient King of Srirangam Adiveeran, who was a pious devotee of the Lord. In his dream, the Lord appeared and ordered him to create these theerthams where the shadow of the temple pagoda fell. Since these theerthams were created due to the grace of the God they were named as Purushothama theertham. It is believed that beautiful heavenly damsels got rid of their sins by having bath in this theertham. There is a separate sanctum in the Mahamandapam for Manavala Mamunigal and the twelve Alwars. The panchaloga statues of Purushothama Perumal , Krishnar, Nachiar, Chakrathalwar and Nammalwar are beautifully made and are evidences of the skill of the artisans. Ten days festival celebrated during Chithra pournami is an important one which attracts lot of crowd.

Thennazhagar temple

This temple is situated at a distance of about two km. from Ambasamudram. This small temple is the most ancient one dedicated to Sundararaja Perumal with a single prakara. This temple is also called as Malli Nattukulam and the Lord is known as Seepathi Vinnagar Emperuman,

Thiruppodhiyil Vinnagara Thevar and Sundharathol Emperuman. The divine consorts are Sundaravalli and Soundara Nachiar. Sage Markandeyar believed to have offered worship here, has his image installed here by the side of the Lord in the sanctum.

There is a sanctum with a beautiful Vimanam decorated with attractive plaster figures. Artha mandapam and a Maha mandapam are there. The front mandapam contains several artistically carved lion faced stone pillars which add lustre to this beautiful small temple. There are panchalogam images of Sundararaja Perumal, Krishnar, Nachiar, Chakkrathalwar, Thirumangai Mannan and Nammalwar.The most important festival celebrated here is Adipooram.

Lakshmi Narayana Perumal temple

Lakshmi Narayana Perumal temple is one of the ancient temples.Sri Devi and Bhudevi are the divine consorts of this Lord in this temple. The temple has sanctum sanctorum, Artha mandapam and Maha mandapam. In the four walls of the temple images of many lingams and Vinayagar are found. Sri Dakshinamoorthy and Sage Sanakadhy and two vilva trees are found inside the temple. These stand as a proof to show that this temple was once a Siva temple but later was converted into a Vaishnavite shrine. Stone inscriptions also support this view. In mahamandapam, there is a separate sanctum for Alwars and Acharyas. We also come across the beautiful idols of Sri Nammalwar, Ramanujar, Desigar and Hanuman. Desigar uthsavam is the only important festival celebrated here which attracts a large number of devotees.

Hanumar temple

A beautiful temple for Hanuman, with a lush green garden is found in the fertile bank of the river Tamiraparani. It is said to have been built 1000 years before. There is a bathing ghat to its south. Hanumann Jayanthi is the most important festival celebrated in this temple which attracts a lot of crowds from in and around this place.Agriculture is the main occupation of these people.

Ambasamudram has one Government Arts college, two higher secondary schools, one for boys and another for girls. There are two Government hostels, one for girls and the other for Marava community and these are maintained by Adi Dravidar Welfare Department. There is a Rice Research Station here. Highways Department is maintaining an inspection bungalow.[2]

Ayikudy (Shencottai taluk)

Ayikudi surrounded by beautiful natural sceneries is situated at six km. from Tenkasi on the banks of Hanumanathi. Frequent bus service is

available to the place. A yogi who showed ways for the salvation of the human beings attained Samadhi here. The image of the presiding deity was unearthed in this spot and the temple was constructed by the public about 700 years ago.[3]

Hundreds of devotees far and near use to congregate in this temple on every Tuesday and Friday to worship the Lord, who is considered very powerful. The Murugan with four hands is mounted on His peacock presents an inspiring view.

In the sanctum sanctorum facing east, the presiding deity, Balasubramaniaswami in the form of a child has been installed under Pancha Vrikshas (Pipal tree, Neem, Currey leaf tree, Mango tree and Pomagranate tree) in the midst of Pancha Devathas[4]. (Adithan, Ambal, Thirumal, Vinayakar and Maheswarar.) The festival idol is called Muthukumaraswamy. Siva and Vinayaga are the other deities of the temple. Both the presiding and festival deities look alike. The peacock vahana, in which the face of the peacock is found on the leftside of the deity which is a rare phenomenon.

The temple which has a single Prakaram does not have a gopuram. Till 1931 this temple had only thatched roof. Skanthasasti festival is celebrated for over 200 years in a grand manner in the month of Aipasi (October-November). On Surasamharam day real battle field is erected before Soundaranayaki Ambal with Kalakandeswaraswami and Lord Muthukumaraswami arrives in a huge peacock vahana. Three persons play the part of the Asuras. On one side the army is headed by Veerabagu and on the other side by an Asura leader. The armies, after entering into the battle field, confront each other as in a real battle. The final result is that Lord Muruga emerges victorious, destroying the evil forces viz. the Asuras. During these days Lord Muthukumaraswami is taken in procession along the streets of this town. "Payasam" is offered as "Neivedyam" in this temple. After performing the Neivedyam, Payasam is distributed to children on the steps constructed in the nearby river with the belief that the Lord is in the guise of a child and he takes his share. The Vibhuthi (holy ash) prasadam is given in the pipal leaf.[5]

Cheranmahadevi (Ambasamudram taluk)

We find Pepper Pillaiar in the southern corner of this town near a tank. When there is a depriciation of water coming to Kannadikan ayacut , people of this place use to make paste of the pepper with water and apply it on this pillaiar and his small temple is filled with water. When they remove the block, both water and pepper paste mingling together flow into ayacut. If this was done with great faith, on the next day itself this ayacut will have plenty of water supply. The expenditure incurred for this is borne by the people themselves.[6]

Cheranmahadevi is situated 16 km. away from Tirunelveli in the western direction on the banks of the river Tamiraparani. This town is proud of having many temples and it could aptly be described as town of Temples like Kancheepuram. Among many temples the Ammainathaswamy temple and Ramaswamy temple are quite ancient and popular among the common people of this area. Many buses are plying between Tirunelveli and Cheranmahadevi. Thus Cheranmahadevi is well connected both by train and other mode of transport.

Ammainathaswamy temple at Cheranmahadevi is perched on the Southern bank of the river Tambirabarani, and it attracts a lot of people during important festivals. This temple is 2.5 km. away from the Cheranmahadevi railway station.We find many inscriptions belonging to the days of Rajaraja - I on the walls of Ammainathaswamy temple. These inscriptions convey the various grants made by Rajaraja - I and his family members for lighting the lamps in the temple.

The gopuram at the main entrance is a five tiered one and its height is 63 feet. Ammainathaswamy is having Swayambulingam and it is the presiding deity of the temple. It is said that the great sage Romesar worshipped this deity and his image is also found in one of the pillars of the Manimandapam. There are two shrines one for God and the other for Goddess. The divine consort is Sri Avudai Amman. There are ardhamandapa and manimandapa which have many sculptures depicting the great efforts made by Cholas and Pandiyas for art and architecture. Vinayakar, Subramaniar, Viswanathar, Visalakshi, Valli, Deivayanai, Natarajar, Sivakami Amman, Karaikkal Amman, Dakshinamoorthi. Adthikara Nandi, Seraman Perumal, Sambandar, Appar, Sundarar, Manikkavasagar and Agastiyar in beautiful icons portray the masterly skill of the craftsmen of that period. The bronze images of Chandrasekara with Amman are other deities worth admiration. We find the image of two sisters husking paddy, in this temple. As per the legend it is said that these two sisters were solely responsible for the construction of this temple. Twenty eight verses in the Sthalapuranam of Sri Nellaippar temple of Tirunelveli illustrates the history of this temple.

During the month of Thai (January-February) on new moon day thousands of people assemble here to have a dip in the river Tamiraparani. The people believe that the river Ganges confluences with the Tamiraparani during that time. They considered that day as an auspicious one.Brahmothsavam in Chithirai (April-May) and Panguni Uthiram (March-April) are the most important festivals which attract thousands of devotees from the neighbourhood. Daily poojas are performed five times a day.[7]

Ramaswamy temple is another important one found in the heart of this town. This is also known as Nigarilisola Vinnagar. It is an imposing

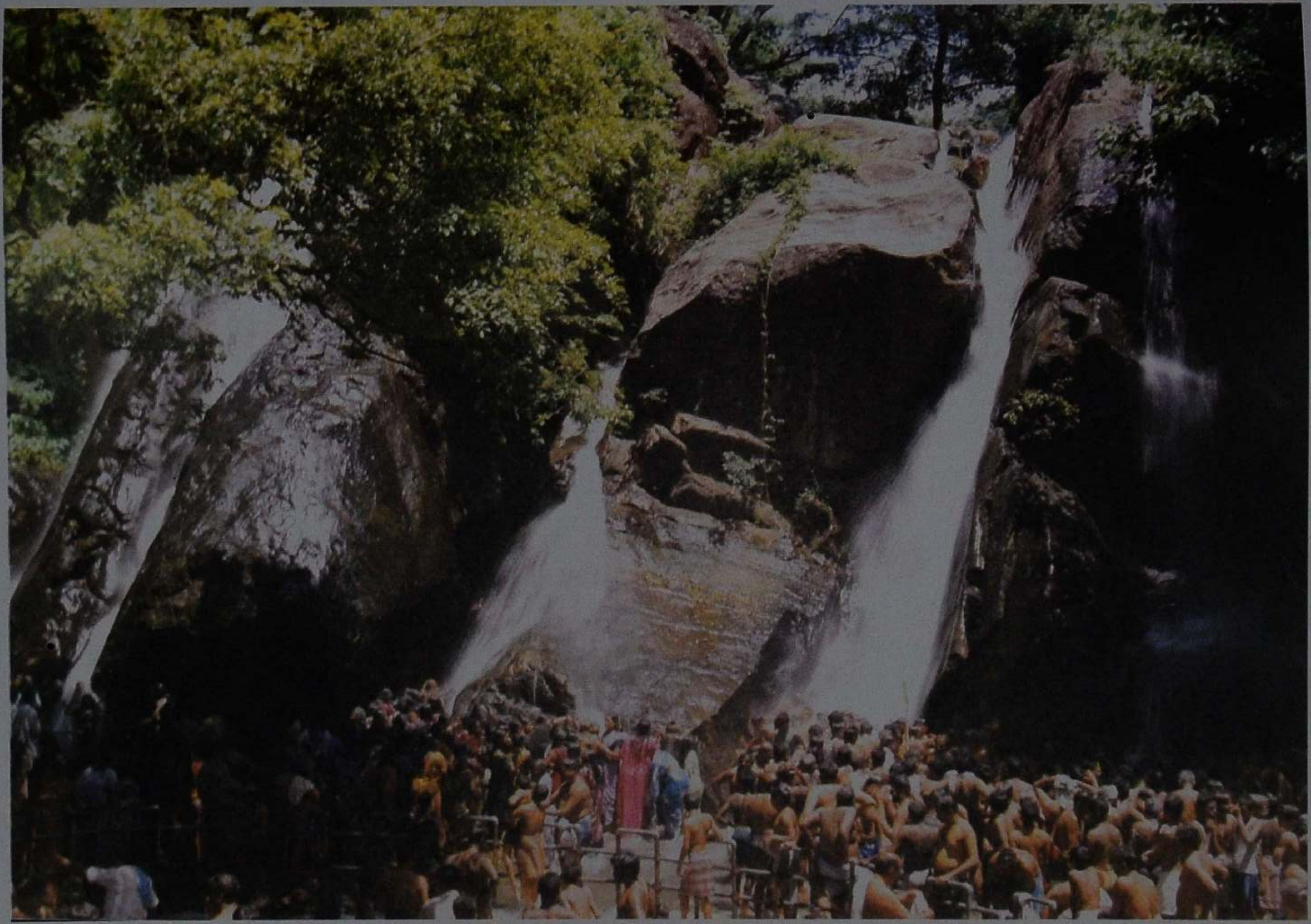
complex of buildings built over the centuries with accretions made from time to time by the Cholas, the Pandyas and later the Vijayanagar and the Nayak rulers. A notable feature of this shrine is its fantastic three tiered Ashtaga Vimanam over the Sanctum of the Lord. In every tier we come across plaster figures of rare beauty and workmanship. These figures are well crafted by the Chola artists by blending the spiritual fervour with their sense of delight all for the benefit of posterity. They create an impression that the stone statues are breathing and moving. The inscriptions refer to this Sthalam as Nigrili Chola ChadhurvedhiMangalam. The ground floor is the mulasthanam. Sri Veetriruntha Perumal and His divine consorts are on the first floor. In the top floor we find the sanctum sanctorum of Pallikonda Perumal with His consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. He is in a reclining posture. In all the three sanctums we find the images of Sage Brigu and his great grandson Markandeya in the worshipping postures.The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Adinarayana Perumal and is accompanied by his divine consorts Sri Devi and Bhudevi. They are all in standing posture. The other name for this presiding deity is Nigarili Chola Vinnagar Alwar. The two upper floors which are supported by wooden beams can be climbed through a flight of steps.

The temple has Artha mandapam, Mahamandapam and Manimandapam and a beautiful tank at the north of the temple. In the arthamandapam we have a fine set of bronze statues of Sita, Rama and Lakshmana all in a single row and to their left could be seen Hanuman. Apart from this there are idols of dancing Krishna, Manavala Mamuni, and twelve Alwars.[8]

There is a separate shrine for Sri Vedanarayanar popularly known as "Therku Kovil" It has Arthamandapam and Manimandapam. In a separate sanctum we find Hanuman, a skillfully carved stone figure which is indeed a masterpiece of great art . Garudalwar and Kannimars are the other sub deities here. Brahmothsavam in the month of Chithrai (April-May) Vaikunta Ekadasi Theppothsavam in Margazhi (December-January) and Pavithrothsavam in Avani (August-September) are the important festivals celebrated in this temple.

Coutrallam (Tenkasi taluk)

Among the few cataracts in Tamilnadu the one in Coutrallam at its south-western extremity bordering on Kerala stands out unique in many respects. The spa of the South is situated at an altitude of 167 meters on the western ghats, just beside the Shencottah gap in the range known as the Ariyangavu pass. It is about 9 km. from the Tenkasi railway station, on the southern railway connected by Virudhunagar Tenkasi chord line as well as by the main line passing through Kovilpatti, Maniyachi, Tirunelveli and Ambasamudram. The town is connected to all the important main roads by good metalled roads. It is an excellent health resort.[9]



Five Falls, Courtallam

The picturesque surroundings with the backdrops of cloud capped spurs of the western ghats lend an unusual charm to the falls. The rapturous scene of the falls gets heightened by the cool breeze that wafts during seasonal months (June to September) along with intermittent drizzle and sunlight.[10]

During this season as also from November to January the period of the North-east monsoon, the waterfall Vada Aruvi one of the most striking natural beauties of the place is in full flood. Such an idyllic place strikingly surpasses others in its having a vast spread of cascade at different location in the hill range[11]. All along the spurs of the western ghats which form more or less a hemisphere around Coutrallam there are eight places where water pours down torrentially with varying velocity and force according to the height of the precipice. They are Main Falls abutting the Kutralanathar temple, the Five Falls on the way to Shencottah ,the Shanbhaga falls right above the Main Falls, (The Tiger falls on the way to old Coutrallam, old Coutrallam Falls, Honey Falls.) Orchard Falls and Sitraruvi (Smaller cascade). Iron rails have been provided in all these places for bathers to hold on to while standing underneath the falls. It is very risky to have bath in the Honey Falls and Shanbhaga Falls. But one can witness the origin of Shanbhaga falls with the help of forest trekker since the route is strewn with boulders.

From early days itself Coutrallam has been considered as a sanatorium of the district and this place was frequently visited by the Europeans. Affluent citizens and officers owned bungalows here. In some places in the mountain, oranges, coffee, cocoanuts, jack fruits and guavas , cardamoms etc., are cultivated.

Visitors to this place like to have bath in these falls from dawn to dusk. One can have bath at anytime in a day and one would not get sneezing or cold as the water is said to possess medicinal qualities of the herbal plants grown in this mountain. Many medical reports say that the falling of the water, after first shock is over, gives an indescribable feeling of pleasure but its constant beating hastens the circulation and produces a fine glow all over the body. It also dispells langour, raises the spirits, stimulates appetite and promotes digestion. It is therefore, said that those suffering from rheumatic joints, chronic headache, nerve disorder and fits of insanity get cured by a lengthy stay at Coutrallam . There are also some institutions run by Ayurvedic physicians and many patients suffering from insanity get treatment here. The scenic settings of this place accompanied by the tender care of the physicians yielded a good result in the cure of patients with mental instability.

Apart from the dashing cascades it has temple, dedicated to Lord Siva called as Thirukutralanathar, which faces east. The Goddess is

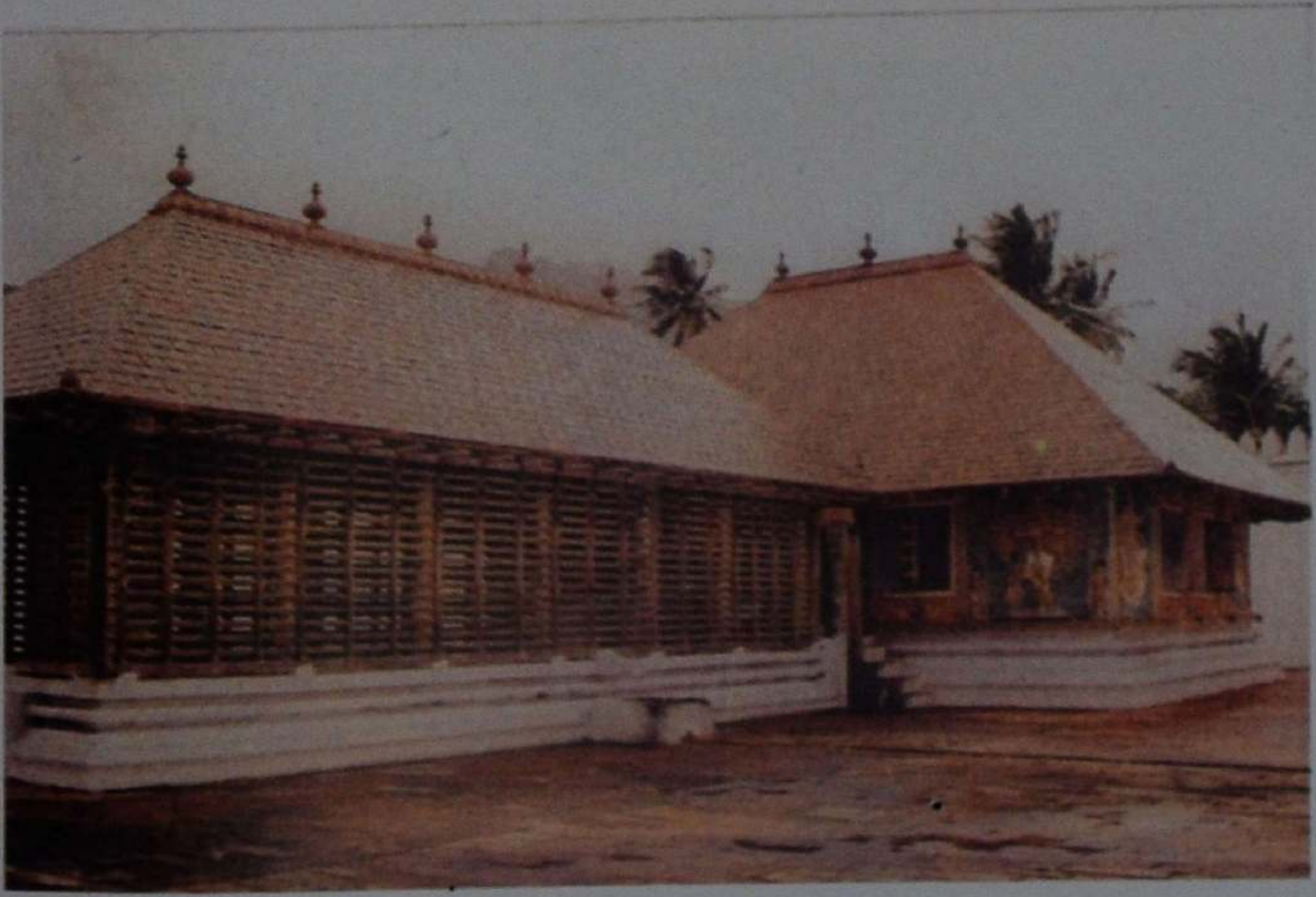
Kuzhalvaimozhi (Venu-Vakvadini) and is on the right of the presiding deity.Goddess Parasakthi is on the left[12]. This is one of the oldest temples and is one among the *14 Sivasthalams* of the Pandya kingdom. The name Kuttralam was derived from Kutral' the name of a forest tree under the refreshing shade of which God was said to have seated Himself in the Company of His spouse. The sthala Vruksha of this temple is Jack tree[13]. According to a popular legend, Lord Vishnu was there originally in the place of Lord Siva. During the marriage of Lord Siva, huge crowd assembled at Mount Kailash and this affected the balance of earth. The north started tilting down and the south going up. In order to maintain the balance of earth Lord Siva sent Agasthiyar to go to south to restore the balance. At Coutrallam Agasthiyar found a Vaishnava temple and by his mystic power Agasthiyar converted it into a Siva temple. Vishnu changed into a Sivalingam, the conch in his hand expanded as the temple and the chakra rose as the peak.

This conch shaped temple stands unique example portraying the engineering marvel and sculptural extravaganza for which Tamilnadu temples are famous. As we enter the temple from the eastern side, a huge hall called Thirukuda Mandapam is to be seen first. On festival days the deities are specially decorated and worshipped here. The idols of the Gods, Ganesa, Subramania, Dakshinamoorthy, the Pancha Lingas, Thirumal, Saneeswara, Brahma and Chandikeswara are seen here. Another sub temple Shenbagadevi Amman temple is situated a little further away near Shenbagadevi falls. Parasakthi temple which is also popularly known as Dharani Peetam is one of the 64 Sakthi Peetams. The local people relate interesting anecdotes, relating to the temple. A dumb girl is said to have got the power of speech by the divine grace of the Goddess and a blind man retrieved his eye sight in the Sanctum of the Lord. Saints Thirunavukarasar, Gnanasambandar and Manikkavasagar, have versified this temple.

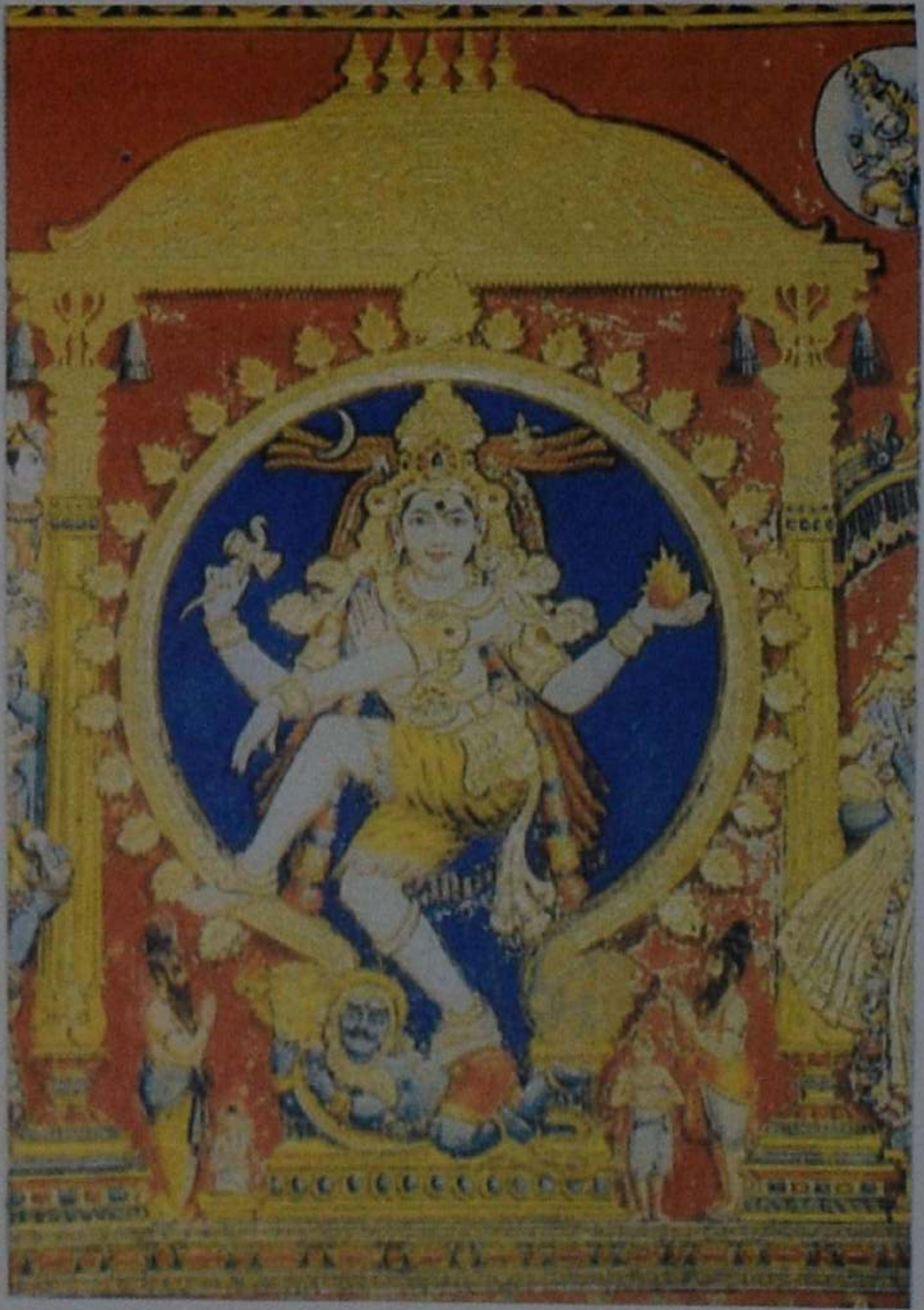
There are three major festivals spread over ten days each namely the Chitra vishu (during April), Aipasi vishu festival (in October) and Arudra festival (in December-January) .The Thandava Deepa Aradhanai performed during these festivals is unique. This Deeparadhana represents the cosmic dance of Lord Nataraja. Many inscriptions belonging to 10th and the 15th centuries are found in this temple.

The Chitra Sabha (Hall of pictures) dedicated to Lord Nataraja and decoarted with mural paintings of deities and devotees, puranic stories and religious events is a few meters away from this temple. This sabha is one of the five sabhas where Lord Nataraja is in a cosmic dance pose. In front of this copper roofed sabha is a lily pond with a heavily ornamented gopuram. Nearby is the Kooththar temple said to be the predecessor of the present main temple. The giant compound walls of the temple, the

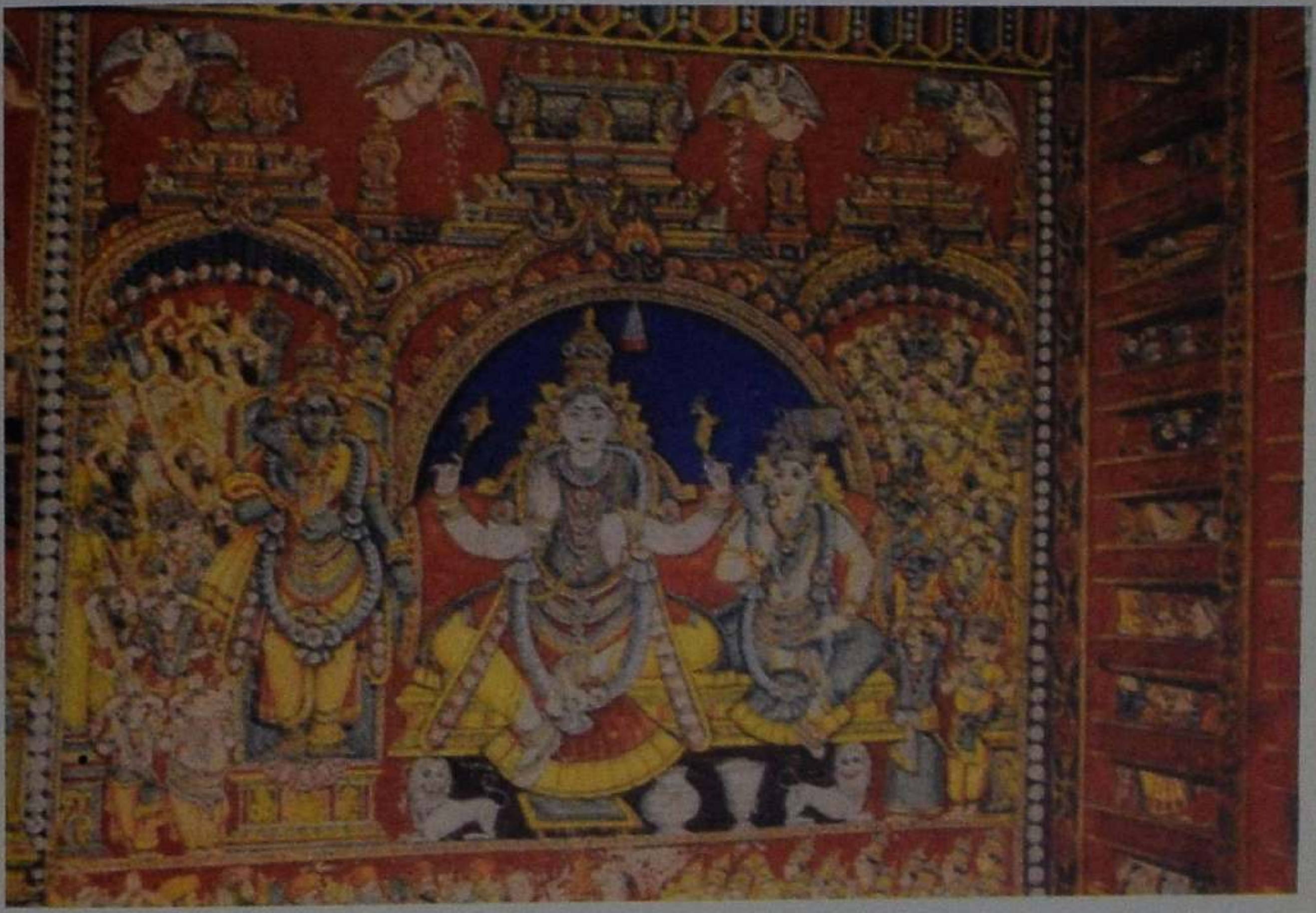
Pazhathotta Aruvi



Chittirai Sabha



Chittirai Sabha paintings



Chittirai Sabha paintings

north and south gates and the choultry are testimony to the grandeur and artistic work of yesteryears.

Coutrallam Municipal township has all modern amenities, such as fine-road transport service, post and telegraph office, police station, telephone facilities, schools, college, library, reading room, park, tennis court, electric supply and protected water supply.[14]

Dhonavur(Nanguneri taluk)

Dhonavur is a hamlet of Puliakurichi village about 4 km. from Tirukkurungudi (with a population of 4200). This hamlet came to limelight only due to the activities of the Dhonavur Fellowship which has its headquarters here.It was during one of those itineraries that Rhenius came in 1826 to Puliakurichi (the original name for Dhonavur) to preach the gospel. In order to serve the local people better he learnt Tamil under Thiruparkadal Nathan[15] and translated Bible in Tamil also. A few villagers led by one Ramaswami offered to accept Christ. Sustained efforts in the adjoining villages of Mavadi and Thopur showed much promise. This gave good encouragement to Rhenius to form a Christian congregation in the cluster of villages centred around Puliakurichi. He had on hand, some money sent to him by one Count Dohna of Schalodin in Prussia (Germany) to be used at his discretion for furthering the Christian cause in Tirunelveli. With that money he bought land in Puliakurichi to be used as a christian settlement for the converts along with few houses. Rhenius dedicated the colony on 23rd May 1827 christening it as Dohnavur after Count Dohna[16]. Then it was followed by first Baptism on 18th August 1827 when one young man and two widows were baptised by Rhenius as Samuel, Mary and Arokiam.

In 1826 Rev Rhenius used one of the small houses for conducting prayers and during 1844-1862 this house was demolished and a beautiful church was constructed in its place. This church which resembles the church of Jerusalam has undergone many renovation works at regular intervals.[17]

The fellowship was founded by Amy Carmichael who was affectionately addressed by the villagers as Amma (mother) in 1901. This foreigner who devoted her entire life for the service of this people completely adopted the way of life of the people of this region,particularly for the sake of upliftment of poor children. For this cause she worked throughout her life and she breathed her last on 18th January 1951[18]. The Fellowship is still continuing its benevolent activities with unabated interest. A well equipped hospital is run by them where poor are treated free. A weekly market too is maintained by the Panchayat union of Kalakad, which assembles here on Thursdays. There are Mission schools for the children of this area and there is a post office too to serve the people.

Gangaikondan (Tirunelveli taluk)

This places is 24 km. north of Tirunelveli on the Tirunelveli-Koilpatti road. There is a railway station here. There is a temple and its walls have inscriptions of Pandya and Chola kings. The Chola rulers represented are Rajendra -I, Rajendra Chola -I and Kulottunga Chola- I. There are also inscriptions of Jatavarman Sundara Chola Pandya Deva, whom king Rajendra was appointed as Viceroy of the Pandya country. The full name of the place *Gangaikonda Chola Chaturvedi Manalam* appears in one of the inscriptions here. The place owes its origin either to Gangaikonda Chola who was appointed by his father Vira Rajendra - I to administer the Pandya Kingdom or to Rajendra Chola who bore the title Gangaikondan. The Pandya inscriptions refer to five kings of whom one is Maranjadayan and is said to have reigned from 765 to 815 A.D. The inscriptions are in Vatteluthu. Inscriptions of Sri Vallabha Jatavarman and Sri Vallabha Maravarman Sundarapandya (1534 AD) are also found here.

A mosque, 4 km. south of this place attracts Hindus too. Hindus believe that their vows will be fulfilled if they worship at the mosque and prasadams.

Gangaikondan tank is a big irrigational source and is fed by river Chittar.

Idaiyangudi (Nanguneri taluk)

It is a small hamlet of the revenue village Tisaiyanvilai situated in the southeast corner of the taluk. It is accessible by road only from the north. On the south we find great rolling dunes in bright red sand. In this land we find scattered palmyra trees accompanied by bushes. Where there is water source we can witness green patches of cultivatiion, the sight of which is marvellous. The village is a Christian settlement and memorable chiefly as having been for 43 years the scene of the labours of Dr.Robert Caldwell, the missionary scholar and bishop[19]. Dr. Robert Caldwell a well versed Tamil scholar constructed a church which is in similar pattern as that of Glassco church. The church bell is named as *Joy bell* and the sound of this bell resembles that of Jalatharangam, which can be heard up to a radious of 3 km. This bell is rung only on important occasions. Lord Napier the Governor of the Madras Presidency had visited this church. Both the bodies of Caldwel and his wife have been buried in the premises of this church[20]. At the present day this village can be proud of having straight and well kept streets, church, bungalow and schools for boys and girls.

Ilanchi (Tenkasi taluk)

Ilanchi is two km. from Coutrallam and six km from Tenkasi which is the nearest railway station. It is well connected with other places both by buses and trains. The Kumaran temple dedicated to Lord Muruga makes

Kumaraswamy Temple, Illanchi

this place very famous one. The term Ilanchi means the Magizham tree (Minunsop Elenchi)which is the Sthala Viruksham of the temple[21]. Ilanchi also refers to lakes which are plenty in this place. This temple faces east and it has got two entrances one in the east and the other in the west. It has two praharams, an Artha Mandapam, a Mani Mandapam and a Maha Mandapam apart from a three tiered gopuram which beautifies the inner entrance. There are four main streets around the temple for the procession of the car. The water of the Chithra river is considered very sacred and hence used as theertham.

Kumaran, Iru Valuganayagar and His consort Iru Valuga Esarkiniyal are the presiding deities of the temple. As per the popular legend, the presiding deity of this temple enabled Sage Agasthiyar to have a darshan of Vishnu in the temple situated in the neighbouring town of Coutrallam. When the staunch devotees of Lord Vishnu in Coutrallam temple refused entry to Agasthiar he sought the help of Ilanchi Murugan. Lord Murugan instructed Agasthiar to enter into this temple in the guise of a Vaishnavite and to conduct the pooja. So did Agasthiar. He conducted a miracle which turned the presiding deity of this Coutrallam temple into Siva instead of Vishnu.

This Ilanchi temple is said to be in existence from the 15th century A.D. Many renovations were made in the years 1409 and 1485 A.D. by Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan and in 1458 A D. by the Zamindar of Chockampatti[22]. Once the three sages namely Kabilar, Kasyapar and Durvasar had a doubt about who was the greatest among the trinities Siva, Vishnu and Brahma and Lord Murugan appeared before them and clarified their doubts by saying that all the three factors namely creation, protection and destruction are all done by Him only. On hearing this they requested the Lord to sanctify this place by remaining here and granting many boons to His devotees in this temple.

The legend has it that Agasthiar was sent to the Pothigai hill by Lord Siva to maintain the balance of the earth when it tilted due to the assembly of all the people on the Himalayas on the occasion of Lord Siva's marriage to Parvathy. On his way to the south, Agasthiar came to this spot on the bank of the river Chithra made a lingam out of white sand (Valugam). He made another lingam next morning and offered poojas to them. Then he combined the two Sivalingams into one and installed it on the river bank and worshipped the Lord who therefore came to be known as Iruvaluganayagar a swaymbu lingam and people frequent this place to worship Him and the enchanting *Kumaran.* The consort, Iruvaluga Esarkiniyal, is in a sitting posture facing south. A special feature of this temple is that no Abishegam is performed to the deity and only Shenbaga flowers are used for archanas.

Kumaran, the presiding deity is very graceful and is accompanied by his consorts Valli and Deivayanai . The *Vel* (spear) in his hand denotes intelligence, Valli represents desire and Deivayanai creation[23]. Poojas are performed six times daily. Skandarsashti festival is celebrated for six days in the month of Aipasi (October-November) in a grandmanner. Chithrai Vishu, Adi Kiruthigai are the other regular annual festivals celebrated here.

Kadayam(Ambasamudram taluk)

Kadayam is situated on Ambasamudram Tenkasi Highways 15 km. from Tenkasi on the banks of the Jambu river. Kadayam is a town panchayat. Vikramapandiayanallur is the other name by which this town is called. It is well connected with other important places by bus as well as by train. The nearest railway station is Kizhkadayam.

Kadayam bustling with industrial activities, has shandi on every Monday. This place is quite famous for rose water. Rose flowers and sweet lemons are transported from this place to other towns. It is said that the great Tamil poet Subramania Bharathiar had lived in this town. His song *Kaani Nilam Vendum*, owes it to the open space, before the Vinayakar temple. There is a high school and a chatram in this town.[24]

There is an ancient temple Vilvavananathaswamy popularly known as *Sri Kailasam* and it inspires everyone of the visitors. The presiding deity is Vilvavananathar who is a swayambu lingam .It is said that this lingam was found by king Dasaratha in the midst of Vilvavanam and he worshipped Him in order to wipeout his Brahmahathi dosham committed by him accidentally when he killed a brahmin boy. Vilvavananathaswamy is also known as Dasaratharameswaramudaiyar, Pazhandhavanar and Kaliyugarameswaramudaiyar. His consort is Nithyakalyani Ambal alias Kalyanasundari.

The inscriptions found in the temple wall reveals that this temple was built by Vikrama Pandya some 700 years ago. Even Naick kings of Madurai also contributed for the renovation of this temple. The sacred Vilva tree is the sthala tree and the tank found outside the temple compound is the sacred theertham. The temple, with massive walls, faces east. It has a 851′ tall rajagopuram with seven tiers, two beautiful Vimanams with attractive plaster figures on them, three prakarams, an Artha mandapam, a Manimandapam, and a spacious Maha mandapam. A beautiful Sri Chakram and a Chidambara Chakram adore the northern walls of the Manimandapam. In a separate sanctum, facing south, stands the divine consort Nithya Kalyani Ambal, whose beautiful image is a master piece of architecture.

The popular legend says that the Ambal noted for Her power once had lost all her powers owing to the sins and attrocities committed by the devotees. Those who worshipped Her met with miseries resulting in their death. At that time a (dancing girl) a pious devotee of Her, used to offer poojas to Her by sending the necessary pooja materials through the pilgrims, thereby maintaining the sanctity of the Amman. But soon her efforts became futile as the pilgrims sent by her also met with similar disastrous consequences. At that time a holy Brahmin came there to do regular poojas to the deity and he found out that the Amman must not be worshipped in the present place since she was not placed as per agama sastras. This pious brahmin along with the dancing girl and other people removed the Amman and reinstalled Her in a different place on a peetam as per the agamas. From that day onwards, the Amman once again acquired all Her lost powers and came to be known to the world as Nithyakalyani. To pay their gratitude for this noble act of the brahmin and the dancing girl the people have carved the beautiful miniature images of them on either side of the pillars of the Mahamandapam.

Kasiviswanathar, Visalakshi, Natarajar, Sivakami Amman , Dakshinamurthy, Vinayakar, Subramaniyar Valli, Deivayanai, Kangalanathar, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswathy, Saneeswarar, Chandikeswarar, Bairavar, Suryar , Chandrar and Navagrahas are the other deities found here. There are uthsava vigrahas made of panchalogam.There are also three other subtemples here viz., the Kailasanathaswamy temple, the Ramasamy temple and the Chekkadi Vinayakar temple attached to this shrine[25]. Brahmothsavam in Chithirai (April-May) for a period of 10 days, Skandha Sashti, Aipasi Thirukkalyanam and Parivettai in Thai (January-February)are the important festivals celebrated in a grand manner in this temple.

Kallikulam (Nanguneri taluk)

It is 18 km. south east of Nanguneri and 6 km. from Valliyoor in the east enroute to Tiruchendur. Frequent bus services are available to this place.

Here we find beautiful church in honour of Our Lady of Snow. Initially it was constructed in 1798 as a small one by Susai Nadar. Later it was expanded and it was renovated in 1838. In 1884 foundation was laid for a new church and was completed in 1886 and nearly 2000 people can pray at a time in this church. Every year August 5th is worshipped as Our Lady of Snow's festival. Many people from distance places gather here for this festival. Lot of people from Kerala also assemble here for this festival. It is said and believed that Our Lady of Snow appeared in the hill near by and blessed the people there.[26]

Karivalamvandanallur(Sankarankoil taluk)

This place is situated at a distance of 14 km. from Sankarankoil on the road to Srivilliputhur.Nikshebanadhi crosses Karivalamvandanallur in the north.This extravagant name suggest that once upon a time an elephant (Kari) with great reverence and piety came from a nearby forest and performed the circuit of the temple in adoration of the lingam. Hence *Kari - valamvanthanallur, the holy place round which the elephant perambulated.* The inhabitants are proud of this plysyllabic name and utter it with due deliberation in the presence of strangers. This name has been corrupted and now generally is called Karuvanallur.[27]

The temple is a large one and has numerous inscriptions of the later Tirunelveli Pandyas of the sixteenth and even of the seventeenth centuries. We find Swayambulingam in this temple affectionately referred to as Palvannanathar by his devotees is an ancient one. The lingam is a rough block of white stone resembling chalcedony and owing to its colour has obtained the name of Palvannaswami the milk coloured god. It is said that this temple was constructed by a Pandya king called Aryan who succeeded the famous ruler Adhivirarama Pandyan. The gopuram over the sanctum sanctorum is 40 feet high and is adored with beautiful plaster images. It was believed that it was in the garden belonging to this temple that Lord Sankaralinga, the presiding deity of the temple in Sankarankoil originated under a Punnai tree (catophyllum Inophyllum). It is also said that the Lord of this temple performed the last rites of a devout king Varaguna Rama Pandyan who died issueless. This king has produced a number of works on the God[28]. Even now the Sudras of this district bring the ashes of their dead from distant places and bury them here on the banks of the Nikshebanadhi. Specimens of stone carvings intended to represent the details of wooden roofs, of the kind found at Tenkasi, Cheranmahadevi, Manappadaividu and other places are to be seen on the outer surface of the walls of the inner shrine. Oddans and Pallans have made searches in this site and discovered a large number of beads of a deep orange colour which they referred as *paparapasi*[29]. This temple is having car, palanquin, vahanas like horse, kamadhenu, rishaba, parrot and lion. The shrine is now a sub temple of the Sankarankoil Devasthanam . Five times a day poojas are performed. Shandy meet on every Saturday. Ashes of Mahatma Gandhi was immersed in this river. Sarvodaya sangam conducts a meeting every year on 12th February. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people.

Koonthakulam(Nanguneri taluk)

A tiny village in the far south. Koonthakulam in Tirunelveli district is emerging as a new favourite of the migratory birds. It is just 38 kms. away from Tirunelveli and is in the nearby Nanguneri taluk. It may soon

Palvannanathar Temple, Karivalamvandanallur

Krishnapuram Sculpture

Paintings in Palvannanathar temple, Karivalamvandanallur

be catapulted into the list of popular water bird sanctuaries in the country. This village is sparesely populated. Migratory birds start coming by December end and fly away to their northern homes by June or July after they lay eggs, hatch them and the young ones grow old enough to fly with the older ones. About 35 species of birds visit this calm but congenial village for breeding.[30]

According to the villagers the migratory birds have been visiting their hamlet for decades during the breeding season. But it was in increase for the past three years due to the growth of babul trees planted by the social forestry department inside the Koonthakulam tank. Apart from Painted storks and Pelicans, Lesser Flamingoes are also visiting this place for breeding. The population of these winged visitors always had been in ascendency and this shows that they are having a liking to this place. The birds come only if they are assured sufficient food and water. For fish which serve as one of the main items, the birds not only depend on Koonthakulam tank or other tanks including Vijayanarayanam but go even to the sea shore. Painted strokes are coming from North India and East European countries to this place. Similarly the flamingoes which flew in mainly from the Rann of Kutch have hatched and reared their young ones in the village. These birds do not build nests in trees but lay their eggs only in mounds of earth in the tank. In order to attract more birds throughout the year there is a proposal to plant Fig trees, Ather, Banyan, Naval (Jamoon) etc., and to provide water to the irrigation tanks in and around Koonthakulam all through the year.[31]

Krishnapuram (Palayamkottai taluk)

Sri Venkatachalapathy temple

The Venkatachalapathy temple at Krishnapuram village on the Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur main road about 12 km .from Tirunelveli is one of few specimens depicting the architectural marvel and grandeur. Buses plying between Tirunelveli and Tiruchendur touch this village . It is indeed a treasure house of stone sculptures. Many rare intricately carved sculptures made of granite stone are fine exhibits of architectural skill. This Vaishnavite temple is dedicated to Lord Venkatachalapathy with his consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi on either side. The fine idol of Lord Venkatachalapathy is in a standing posture in the Sanctum. Though small, this temple is complete in itself, since it is following the temple agamas.

This temple was built during the reign of the king Krishnappa Naik of the Nayak dynasty during the later half of this 16th, century which is confirmed by an inscription in this temple (1565 AD)[32]. The village is known as Krishnapuram after Krishnappa Nayak Bhupathi. It is said that Krishnappa Nayakkar had commissioned some famous sculptors from

Vijayanagaram and they have left behind a wonderful collection of sculptures that tell us tales of heroic love and tragedy.

There are three Prakarams in the temple. The Muka Mandapam possesses many life size human figures portraying the various stories found in Hindu mythology.'Bhima' receives the visitors and the devotees. The nails of Arjuna is polished so well that it looks like a natural one. *Manmatha Rathi* and a dancing gypsy are also found here as the stamp of Vijayanagar art. In the Aranga mandapam one can come across many life size figures portraying valour and love .

Three pillars are in a row on the eastern side and the remaining three are on the west. Three pillars are adorned by images of beautiful damsels. The hermit and damsel marriage sculptures depict a hermit looking at a young Sinhala princess with her servants trying their hand at musical instruments. In the *dance of the Apsara* a young woman in Bharathanatyam attire renders dance with flowers in one hand and a fruit in the other. A princess and a prince being abducted by a Kuravan and a Kurathi (gypsies) The blood oozing out of a wound caused on the left flank of the Kuravan who is carrying the princess on his shoulders is represented in a red shade of stone. The whole frame of the Kuravan is twisted as a result of excruciating pain. Some romantic scenes have also been depicted in an impressive manner.

In the mahamandapam[33] there are fourteen artistically carved pillars, seven of them are on the southern side and seven on the northern side. Gigantic Yalis could be seen on four of these pillars. Among the carving found on the pillars the images of Veerabadrar and Rati, the Goddess of love, the sculptural representation of an adventure of Bhima with Purusha mirugam (half man and half animal) are interesting. On the top of a pillar, a remarkable carving combining an elephant and a bull is bound to attract the attention of all. In the figure the eyes of the animals are common, the lip of the elephant corresponds to the ear of the bull and the lifted trunk of the elephant forms the bulls' hump.

Poojas are duly performed in the temple. The Brahmothasavam of the temple is celebrated for eleven days in the month of Puratasi(Septmber-October). The temple is well worth a visit by ardent devotees as well as connoisseurs of art. The late Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs.Sonia Gandhi visited the Krishnapuram temple and they were fascinated with the grandeur of the sculptures.

Mancholai (Ambasamudram taluk)

Mancholai is 57 km away from Tirunelveli and is at an elevation in 1162 sq.metre. There are many tea plantations in and around this place. Bombay Burma Tea estate is famous one in this area. About 4000 people

are working in these tea plantations[34]. Mancholai is noteworthy for the climate, scenery and calm atmosphere. This place can easily be compared with Udhagamandalam, the queen of Hill stations as far as the pleasing climate and peaceful natural atmosphere are concerned. Just above Mancholai, there are places like Kakkachi and Nalumukka which are real gifts of nature. On the way to Mancholai from Manimuthar there is a very beautiful place called Dasan Pool with plenty of fresh water,greens and a fine climate. The British Officers in those days used to stay there and make some arrangements for boating.[35]

Manimuthar (Ambasamudram taluk)

Manimuthar which is 47 km. from Tirunelveli has a big dam constructed in 1958 across the Manimuthar river a major tributory of Tamiraparani river, a beautiful park and a good waterfall with a swimming pool . The salubrious climate and gorgeous gardens near the dam are capable of granting a soothing touch to those who go far away from the madding crowds. The area of this dam is 83.2 sq.km. with a total length of 9605 feet of which 8375 feet are made up of sand and 1230 feet are constructed with cement. The total capacity of this dam is 5511 million cubic feet[36].

Mannar koil (Ambasamudram taluk)

Vedanarayanapuram was the ancient name of this place. It is now known as Mannarkoil. Here Kulasekara Alwar spent his last days in this temple and attained salvation. To honour him there is a separate shrine for this Alwar in the northern prakaram. This temple is considered as one of the sacred temples by Vaishnavites.

According to the legend that Lord Vishnu killed Kiyadhi wife of Sage Brigu for giving protection to the Asuras. Sage Brigu cursed Lord to loose his wife for this act and he too must suffer like him. Realising the foolishness of the act Lord Vishnu regretted for this and he did penance. Lord appeared as Lord Rama in the world, lost his wife Sita and suffered and faced many hurdles like ordinary human being. Sage Brigu along with his great grandson Markandeyar installed Sri Vedanarayana in the standing posture in this temple.Separate sanctas are there for the divine consorts Vedavalli Thayar and Bhuvanavalli Thayar in this temple.

The temple is 7 km. in the northwest of Ambasamudram and it is in the midst of beautiful fertile green paddy fields and inspires every one. The big Gopuram has five tiers and has the credit of having artistic plaster figures on it. There are two prakarams, an Artha mandapam, a Maha mandapam, a Mani mandapam and Pandal mandapam. This pandal mandapam was built by king Muthu Krishna Naik and his image was found in the Mandapam along with Ramappaiyan his deputy. We can find many ornamental carvings of fishes in the roof of this mandapam which paves

way to think that this temple is in existence in the time of pandyas. Many stone inscriptions are found in the wall of this temple. The temple is described as *Manabarana Chathurvedimangalam* and this was part of Rajaraja Chathurvedhimangalam. The Lord is affectionately called as Azhagia Mannanar, and hence this place is known as Mannarkoil. The inscriptions convey that the great Chola king Raja Singa Thevar also dcscribed as Rajendra Vinnagar by king Rajendra Chola, built this temple. The presiding deity is Rajendra Vinnagara Thevar and Vinnagarathu Emperuman. The panchalogam idols of Rajagopalaswamy, Andal, Kulasekara Alwar, Garuda are specimens of architectural marvel. The beautiful images of Sage Brigu, Markandeya, Sri Rama, Lakshmana, Sita Devi, Anjaneyar, Krishna, Ramanujar twelve Alwars and Manavala Mamunigal also adore this temple. The most important feature about this temple is that Vishnu offers Darshan to devotees in all the three postures of sitting, standing and lying as Paramapadanathar, Vedanarayanar and Ranganathar. Regular poojas are conducted in this temple. The main festivals that attracts devotees of this area are Chithra pournami and Margazhi Vaikunta Ekadasi.[37]

Melappalaiyam (Palayamkottai taluk)

Melappalayam, a municipality is now merged with Tirunelveli corporatioin. It is a densely populated area , the main inhabitants being muslims.Once weaving, dyeing, tanning and foreign trade were the main occupation of its people. But these professions are declining. Now more than one fourth of the male population are living in abroad as shopkeepers, and general traders in Rangoon, Mandalay, Kandy, Penang, Singapore and Gulf countries, Bombay and many other places.[38]

Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Ambasamudram taluk)

The Mundanthurai-Kalakad wild life sancturies in Tirunelveli district is developed as a *National Tiger Reserve* from the year 1988 with a total area of 817 sq.km.in the south most western ghat ranges. The nearest stations are Cheranmahadevi, and Ambasamudram which are 20 kms. and 15 kms. respectively from this place. The nearest airports are Madurai and Travandrum . One can reach this place by road also from Ambasamudram and Kalakad. Frequent buses are plying from Ambasamudram and Kalakad to this place.

Out of 817 sq.kms. 459 sq.kms. is in core zone and 358 sq.kms. is in buffer zone. The mountaineous undulating to topography is the characteristic feature leading to trophical dry deciduous forest on the lowerslopes and tropical wet evergreen forests on the upper reaches. The climate is dry humid and hot at plains and pleasant cold in the higher elevations. The reserve is the southernmost habitat of the tiger. Other predators like panthers, jungu cats, civets, dholes, jackals, striped hyenas are also found here.

India is the home of 18 non-human primate species of which five primates occur in this reserve namely lion- tailed macque, slender loris, Nilgiri langur common langur and bonnet macaque. Other endangered species found here are Nilgiri tahr, sloth bear, Indian bison, Indian elephant, Malabar giant squirrel, flying squirrel, mouse deer. pangolin etc. In addition to that sambar wild boar, spotted deer, porcupine and mangooses are also found here.

We can also come across reptiles and amphibians like king cobra, common krait, russels, viper darkpit viper, monitor, lizard, garden lizard, tortoise, crocodiles and rare species of frogs. Regarding avifauna there are more than 80 species of birds found in this region. To mention a few spotted frequently here are egrets, herons, jungle fowl, spurfowl, patridge, quils, emerald dove, minivets, bee caters, sparrows, owls, night jars, kites, flower peckers, eagles swifts wagtails, woodpeckers, king fishers, dragon, paradise fly catchers, and parakeets etc.

There are 24 identified nature trails which is spread over the reserve. It gives a thrilling experience to trekkers. This Tiger Reserve is open on all days between 6 a.m to 6 p.m. throughout the year. However, the best season is September to January. Forest Rest Houses and dormitories are available at Mundanthurai and Thalayanai.[39]

Nanguneri (Nanguneri taluk)

Nanguneri town, the taluk headquarters is also known as Srivaramangalanagar, Sri Varamangalam and Sripurushamangai. In later days it was also called as Thothathri Vanamalai and Nanguneri. It is considered to be the father-in-law's place of Lord Vishnu. This place was ruled by the Pandya king Nedumchadaiyan, Paranthagan (A.D..765-796) who was also known as Srivaran. Hence the name of this town was called by the name Srivaramangalam.This town is 25 km to the south of Tirunelveli lying on the Tirunelveli Kanniyakumari road (N.H.7) and enjoys great transport facilities.

The Vanamamalai Perumal temple is dedicated to Lord Thothadri and it is celebrated seat of Vaishnavism glorified by Nammazhwar of the 7th century A.D This temple is under the maintenance and control of Sri Vanamamalai Mutt. *Thotha* means *"Removal of sins"* and *Athri* means "mountain" .This mountain is said to have risen from the bed of the holy tank Pankaja Pushkarani. Similarly the name Nanguneri means Nan-four gun-bend-Neri -Tank. Nanguneri town having tank with four bends. We can find four bends even in the National highways running through this town. Nanguneri is one of the 108 Vaishnavasthala sung in praise of Vishnu by Alwars and is also one of the eight Swayamvyaktha places.The images at Swayamvyaktha places are said to have been brought about at the instance of the Lord himself. This place is considered as *Bhooloka Vaikundam* or *Heaven on Earth.*

The area lying to the north of the Tamiraparani river are more influenced by the Vijayanagar and Nayak style and those on the south of the river by the Kerala style. The architecture in this temple is a mixture of both Pandya and Kerala styles . This temple is situated in an area of about 1500 sq.ft. Though it is not known as to how this temple came into existence, according to mythology it was constructed by the celestial architect at the instance of Lord Vishnu himself. The temple was improved upon by the Pandya and Naik kings and later by the successive heads of Vanamamalai Mutt.

The temple is famous for the super architecture, the 200 feet ornamental gopuram soaring high at the main entrance. It is a very attractive albeit having few images . It consists of miniature columns beatifully decorated one above the other in the vertical order. This magic was done with the help of brick and mortar. This is one of the examples of the Vijayanagar architecture but neither any inscriptions or records are found to establish its authenticity. Very big walls surround the temple on all the four sides making it a picture framed in stones.

The presiding deity of Lord Thothadri is in the sitting posture on the couch and under the canopy of Adisesha with consorts Sri Devi and Bhu Devi and the divine damsels Urvasi and Thilothamai. The gingelly oil used in the Abishegam ceremonies of this image is said to possess miraculous healing power. This sacred oil is considered to be a divine cure for skin ailments and also for leprosy. This oil is collected in *ennaikinar* oil well situated on the north east corner of this temple.This has been alluded to Sage Agasthya in his Tamil book on medicine over 2000 years ago.

The temple has two corridors or Prakarams which have 100 unique bas - reliefs portraying important episodes from the Saivite and Vaishnavite puranas. Particularly Karaikal Ammayar with Lord Nataraja in his cosmic dance worth great appreciation for its aesthetic beauty.There are many decorated halls called Mandapams like the Panthal Mandapam, Jayanthi Mandapam. Sivilli Mandapam, Kulasekhara Mandapam and Veerappa Naik Mandapams[40]. These are adorned by different sancta.The front mandapam known as pandal mandapam is proud of possessing more than eight human life size images as part of the giant size pillars. The bold strokes of imagination can be found in every corner and curve.

On the southern side we can find the statute of Lord Rama keeping his arm on the shoulders of Sukreeva and this posture shows the affection of Rama to Sukreeva in a very realistic way. Apart from this the grace and elagent dancing girl, the stone chain hanging in a corner from the roof and a stone ball rolling inside the mouth of a seated lion are the masterpieces exhibiting the sculptors' skill.

Sri Vanamalai Perumal Temple, Rajagopuram, Nanguneri

There are about half a dozen sub-temples inside this main temple particularly for the Goddess Srivaramangai Thayar,Andal, Lakshmi Narayana , Lakshmivaraha, Venugopala ten incarnations of the Lord , Alwars and saints Ramanuja and Manavala Mamuni[41]. Nammalwar is said to have merged under the holy feet of this deity. The main attraction here is the life size Kannan on the northern wing. The first mandapam inside the temple is Jayanthi mandapam said to be built by Javanthi Nayak. A little to the interior utsavamurthis Deivanayagaperumal with Ubayanachiar Srivaramangai Nachiar present darshan. Veerappa Nayakka mandapam is situated on the northern side of it on the way to oilwell.

Regular[42] poojas are conducted in the temple by hereditary Brahmin priests. The temple is having many vahanas made of gold and silver. The golden chariot is a beautiful piece of art portraying the wonderful workmanship. Of the different festivals celebrated here the annual festivals held during the Tamil months of Panguni (March - April) and Chithirai (April-May) deserve special mention and more than 20,000 persons from different parts of the country are said to attend these festivals.[43]

Vanamamalai Mutt is a well known institutiion having a long standing reputation. It is said to have been in existence for over 1000 years.,(patronised by both the Hindu and Muslim rulers). The Mutt's history is traced from the time of Ramanuja the Vaishnava preceptor of the 11th century. The first head of the Mutt in 1447 was Vanamamalai Ramanuja Jeer and it has an unbroken continuty of Guru Parambara Jeeyars and the present Jeeyar Srimath Paramahamsa Sri Kalian Vanamamalai Jeeyar swami is the 30th Peedadhipathi well versed in Sanskrit, English, Hindi and Tamil. Branches of this mutt engaged in spreading the Philosophy of Ramanuja are found in several parts of our country.

Nanguneri, the headquarters of Nanguneri taluk has a population of 13629 and it is 31 km from Tirunelveli town. The main crops cultivated in this region are paddy and groundnut. Apart from these the commercial crop cotton is also cultivated.

The important office functioning in this town are Taluk office, Sub-Court, Sub-Jail, Sub-Treasury, Sub Registrar office, Town Panchayat office, Deputy Commercial Tax office, Panchayat Union office, P.W.D office and Highways office .Apart from these Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation godown is also located here. This town is connected by frequent bus services.

Besides one Higher Secondary school, one Middle school and one Elementary school, the town has two post offices,. one Police station, a co-operative society and a branch of State Bank of India. Weekly markets are held in this town on Tuesdays. There is one Highways Travellers Bungalow. People celebrate Krishna Jayanthi , Deepavali, Pongal, Christmas, Ramzan and New Year Day with good feast.[44]

Palayamkottai - Kurukkuthurai (Tirunelveli taluk)

Kurukkuthurai is famous for the beautiful temple of Lord Muruga. It is in the middle of river Tamiraparani. This image is beautifully carved out of a rock known as Thiruvurumalai, in the midst of the river. It is said that the same rock was used for carving the image of Lord Muruga of Tiruchendur in 1653. It is notable that both the images of Lord Muruga at Tiruchendur and Kurukkuthurai are made by the same sculptor. In those days Abshega Theertham for Swami Nellaiyappar at Tirunelveli was carried from Sindhupoondhurai. Now there is a road connecting Subramaniaswamy temple and Nellaiyappar temple and the holy water is now being carried from Kurukkuthurai due to its proximity to Nellaiyappar temple.

This temple with a 20 feet Raja gopuram built before 300 years ago. The prakaram was built about 300 years ago by the Thiruvaduthurai Adhneenam which still maintains it.

Six poojas are conducted daily in this temple. This temple has to its credit a car, two palanquins ,six silver radhas and a golden radham. Brahmothsavam in Chithrai (April-May) for a period of 10 days, Vaikasi Visakam, Avani Moolam, and Skandha Sashti in Iyppasi (October-November) are the important festival conducted in this temple.[45]

Sindhupundhurai

Palayam salai Kumaraswamy temple attracts a lot of devotees from the surrounding area. This temple is proud of receiving rolling silver trophy in the year 1965 for best maintained temple in Tamilnadu from Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department. This small beautiful temple where Lord Muruga is the main deity is situated in Sindhupoonthurai on Tirunelveli-Palayamkottai High Road. This 300 years old temple has seen several renovations. As per the legend in 1648 A.D the Dutch took away the images of the Subramaniaswamy temple at Tiruchendur. One Vada Malayappa Pillai made afresh the stone and metallic images in 1653 A.D. The party which carried these images to Tiruchendur halted at this place for a day and due to this the place became more important. In due course a small temple of Lord Muruga sprang up here, which inspires thousands of devotees. This temple has a single prakaram and a beautiful Peacock mandapam. Lord Arumugaswamy (Muruga) the presiding deity of the temple, is seated on a peacock with his consorts Valli and Deivayanai on either side offers a grand dharshan to devotees. Sidhi Vinayakar, Subramaniar, Gajalakshmi, Chandikeswarar and Dwarapalahas are the other deities adorning this temple. These attractive images are beautifully carved in the stones. There is a separate shrine for Sri Saneeswarar.

There are two small rathams here apart from the Vahanas of peacock, suran and horse and these Vahanas are made up of wood. Skandha Sashti, Vaikasi Visakam and Karthigai deepam are the important festivals celebrated in this temple[46].

Ramaswami temple

This famous Ramaswami temple situated in the centre of Palaymcottai town attracts quite a lot of devotees in all seasons. It is said to be built by Pandya kings before 1000 years. During Palayamkars kingship, big compound walls were constructed along this temple and even now we can witness few remnants of this fort walls[47]. The western entrance of this fort wall was found near this temple. At present Sri Vinayakar shrine has been constructed and He is called as Fort Pillaiar Sri Prasana Vinayakar. After Palayakkars, Muslims came to power and they utilised this temple to stock their ammunitions. Ample evidences are found even now in and around this temple to prove this statement.

In the sanctum sanctorum of this temple we find the deities of Rama, Sita, Lakshnama, Hanuman and Andal. People used to throng the shrine of Hanuman and Andal during Dhanur month.(December-January)Punurpusa festival in Masi (February-March) Sri Anjaneya jayanthi in Margazhi (December-January) Sri Ramanavami in Panguni (March-April) and Garudaseva in Purattasi (September-October) are important festivals celebrated in a grand scale in this temple.

Palayamkottai is described as *South Indian Oxford* since it has a number of educational institutions. There is a Medical college, Sidha Medical college, Govt.Engineering college, three Arts colleges for men and two Arts colleges for Women and two Polytechnic institutions. Apart from these there are many schools maintained by Government and private people. Krishnapuram is an important tourist spot which is 7 km. away from Palayamkottai town.

Clorindas Church is the first English Church built in Palaymcottai amidst old burial ground. This small church was built between 1780 and 1785 by public subscription. Reverend Schwartz, a German by birth, was the greatest of the protestant missionaries of the period. In 1779 he found the Tanjore Mission, Clorinda a converted Hindu widow was Schwartz's chosen angel sent to Tirunelveli to spread the gospel of Christianity. Some say that the Hindu name of this lady was Kokila and some others say that it was Lakshmi. When she built the Church it was meant to be a Tamil Church only. Occasionally Rev.C.F.Schwartz was using it for the English service, marriage and the Baptism of the babies of the military officers. This church was consecrated on the 24th August 1785. It was repaired by the effort of Rev.James Hough the Chaplain of Palaymkottah in 1816 and 1826. The military repaired it in 1848. Afterwards it was looked

after by the British Government under the Ancient Monument Act. The Church is preserved in a reasonably good condition even to-day. When Clorinda built her church the European Officers of the Military Department seem to have cheered her up and helped her with men and money. The British Government used this church for garrison purposes also.[48]

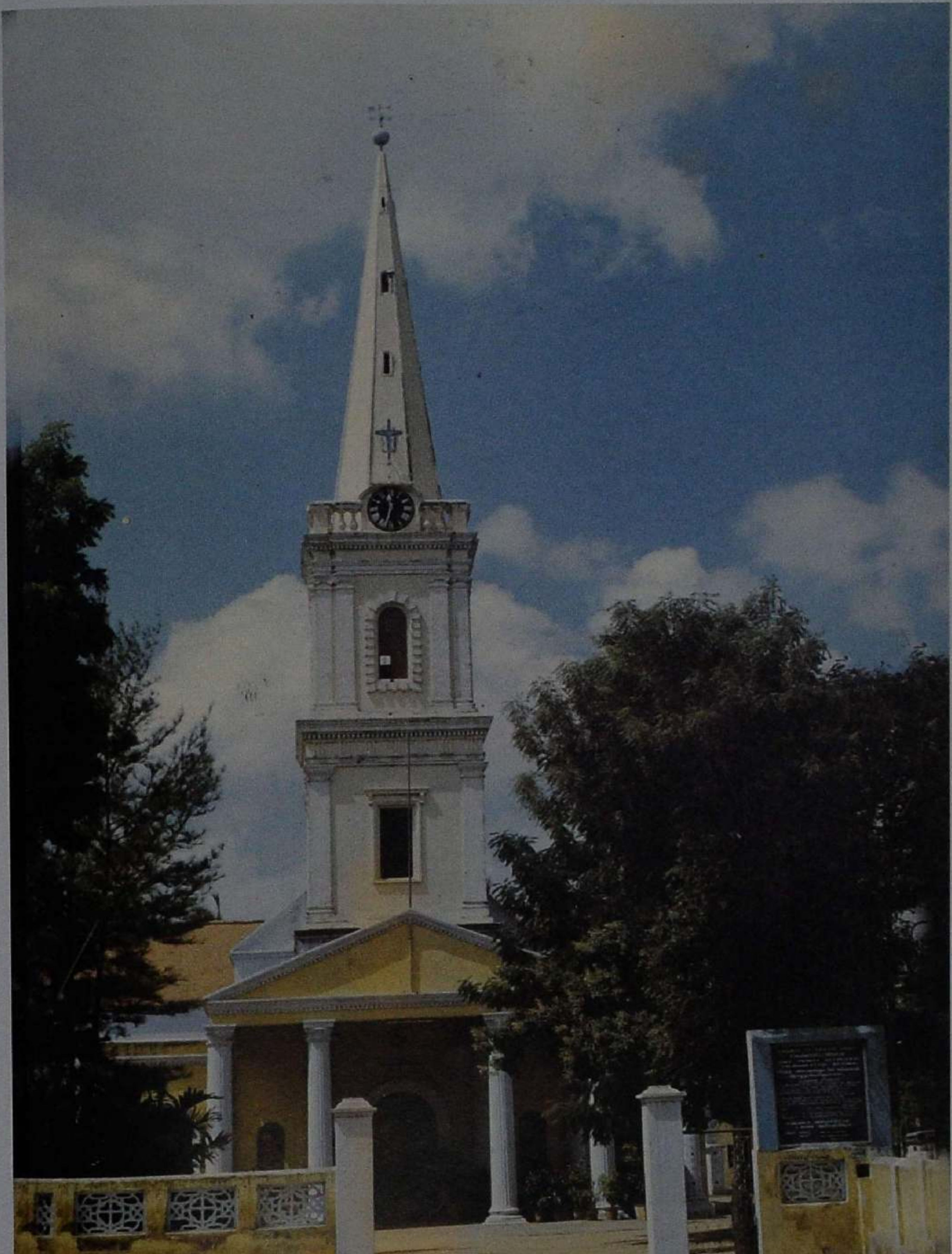
Holy Trinity Cathedral

The Holy Trinity Cathedral a small, elegant and beautiful Church was built in 1826 by Rev Rhenius and opened to public for worship on 26 June 1826. It took only 175 days for its construction which costs about Rs.2000/- This small church with an oblong edifice measuring 64 ft. by 30 ft still serves as a nucleus for this massive Cathedral which developed in later years. This amount came as donations not only from Christians, but from Hindus and Muslims as well. Venga Mudaliar had donated 168 acres of punjai land for the maintenance of this Chruch. Many renovations and additions were made to this structure. In the year 1845, a tall stately steeple of 158 feet soaring into the skies was added by Rev.Pettilt and has made the church a landmark all over the district. The resonant bell gifted by friends in England and installed in 1850 has unfailingly chimmed the hours, calling the faithful to worship over the years and the clock set in the tower is relied upon by the entire town as its beloved Big Ben. Many improvements, extensions and renovation works have taken place subsequently in the years 1846, 1850, 1853, 1869, 1870, 1876, 1926, 1932 and 1937. In 1940 Bishop Stephen Neill raised its status as the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Painting, flooring and other extensions were made the following years. Now there is a proposal for extension.

This Church is involved in many social services like paying visit to hospitals and they pray for their wellbeing. This Church plays a vital role not only in spiritual upliftment of its people[49] but also in the material upliftment like providing educatiion, distributing free food and clothing and helping them in the construction of their houses etc.

Papanasam (Ambasamudram taluk)

Papanasam is famous for the Saivite temple Papavinasar. This place is having well knit communications both by road and by train. Papanasam is also called as Papavinasam. It is famous for the beautiful Kalyana theertham falls. A dip in this fall is believed to remove one's sins. Papavinasar is a Swayambu lingam. The lord is also known by other names namely Pazhamarainayagar, Mukkalalingar, Vayirasalingar and Paranjothilingar. His divine consort is Ulagambal in the separate shrine, with all her grace protecting the people of this town. Vikrama Singar pandiyan is said to have built this temple in 13th century A.D. Because of this the place is also called as Vikramasingapuram. Kala tree is the sthala viruksham of this temple. The temple is enclosed by huge walls on all the four sides. The



Cathedral Church (ஊசி கோபுரம்), Palayamkottai

main gopuram is 80′ in height with seven tiers. The plaster figures on the gopuram are very attractive. The fish figures found in the vimanas of the mandapams indicate that these were the works of pandyas. Lions, yalies and young maidens in the pillars of the mandapams speak about the artistic skill of the artisans of those days. Kasilingar, Mukkala lingar and koothar are in separate shrines here. Kalyanasundarar, Dakshinamoorthy, Arumugaswamy, Chandikeswarar, Agasthyar, Arubathimoovar and Navagrahas are the other deities here. The figures are enchanting one. There is a legend prevailing in this area regarding this temple. Once the Pandya king who ruled this place embraced Buddhism and oppressed his people very much. Due to this many left this place. At this juncture a brother and sister got separated. They wandered through many places. They met at Benaras in a choultry without knowing each other. They fell in love with each other and got married. Later they discovered this mistake and sought the advice of the elders as to how to expiate the sin. The elders asked them to clothe themselves in black and to have dip in each sacred place. They informed them that the place where their black clothes turn white they would get salvation. Accordingly those two went to various places and finally they came to Papanasam and bathed in the river. Their clothe turned white and they worshipped the Lord of this temple and got salvation for their sin.

It is delightful to watch fishes of different sizes and colours in the river in front of this temple. The pilgrims used to feed them with fried peas and nobody catches the fish. There is a belief that anybody who involve in a catch of fish will suffer. It is said that an European who was unaware of this fact suffered a lot for the violation of this convention.

Poojas are performed six times daily. Chithirai (April-May) Brahmothsavam is the most important festival in this tempie.[50]

Pattamadai (Ambasamudram taluk)

This village is 3 km. from Cheranmadevi served by a number of buses in addition to the occasional train service. Maradiya Sasta set on a pinnacle of rock is worshipped by the people of this region with great reverence. This is the birth place of Swami Sivananda a doctor who turned as an asectic spreading the motive of love, sacrifice and universal brotherhood. It is He who established Sivananda Ashramam at Rishikesh. Mats of various qualities are manufactured here by the Muhammadans using korai grasses. This mats are quite famous in inland and a large quantities of these mats are exported to foreign countries.[51]

Pottalpudur (Ambasamudram taluk)

The centre of attraction of this place is the oldest dargha built around the year 1674. It is so secular that, it attracts besides the Muslims,Hindus,

Christians as well. This has been built adopting Hindu temple pattern. If the prayers of the pilgrims are answered, they pay their offerings, through the dargha in large numbers during Kanthuri festival with great reverence. In this dargha where the lebbais act as priest, customs almost similar to that of Hindus are followed in the rituals. Here holy ashes obtained from tamarind bark, ghee, and flowers called *nersa* are distributed to its devotees. For this Andavar, sheep and fowls are brought by all the classes of people and sacrificed before him as they do before the local Amman deities . Now refined people offer fruits for their worship rather than fowls and sheep. Sandal paste is prepared in a pot on a large scale during the time of the kanthuri and is sent to the Hindu village of Ravanasamudram, from where it is brought back to this dargha with great pomp. This is offered to the Andavar. Afterwards this sandal paste is distributed to the eagerly awaiting crowd without discriminatioin as to caste, creed or religion. This stands as an example of communal harmony and secularisim. This Dargah is considered as a pious and sacred one equal to the Nagore dargha and only next to Baghdad by the people of this place.[52]

Puliyarai (Shencottai taluk)

Puliyarai is a small town amidst sylvan surroundings surrounded by the western ghats on south, west and north directions and is at a distance of about 12 kms. from Shencottai. Regular buses ply between this place to Shencottai. In the southwestern side of this town there is a temple dedicated to Sadasivamurthy, a Swayambu Lingam.There is a beautiful tank in front of this temple. With this tank in front and fertile paddy fields on three sides, the temple presents a serene view. Goddess Sivakami is in a separate sanctum to the south of the Lord.

A peculiar feature of this temple is that in front of the Swayambu Lingam we find Dakshinamoorthy instead of the usual Nandhi. This is the reason why this temple is even now known as Dakshinamoorthy temple. The legend has it that the God in this temple appeared in the dream of a king belonging to Kattarakara who was on severe penance, praying the God for a child[53]. The Lord ordered the king to construct a temple for the lingam which could be found in the hole of a tamarind tree, which is on the west of Dakshinamoorthy. He would be blessed with a child if he completes the act. Since the town was developed centering the tamarind tree, this place is called Puliyarai. Six days Kalyana Uthsavam celebration in the month of Thai (January-February) draws a lot of people to this place.The other deities found in this temple are Vinayakar, Subramaniyar, Natarajar, Bairavar and Chandran. Poojas are performed six times in a day as per Siva Agama.[54]

Pottal Pudur Durgha

Radhapuram (Radhpauram tlauk)

Rdhapuram is the headquarters to taluk and is under a Tahsildar. It is 38 km. from Nanguneri and 15 km. from the sea coast. The main attraction of the place is the temple dedicated to goddess Sri Kalyanisundari Amman.The presiding deity of the temple is Sri Varaguna Pandeswarar. The temple is said to have been built by Varaguna Pandya who visited the place on a hunting expedition. There is also a legend that Kalyani, the daugher of a chettiar of Udayathoor 3 km. east of this place was taken by the Lord as his consort. This led to the installation of Kalyani Amman in the temple. Powdered suffron made into a paste with water is distributed as prasadam to the devotees. The devotee also make offerings of large quantities of these saffron roots.The darshan of Ambal is believed to cure diseases and remove barrenness in women. There are two coper plates which describes the gift of lands made by Chera Prince in the Kolam Andu 715 i.e. (1540 A.D).The Dwajastamba was set up by Peria Tiruvadi Chakrâvarthi apparently a Travancore ruler.

The main festival in the temple is celebrated in the month of Chittirai (April-May). Siva temple is having tank nearby.At the western end of this town there is another temple dedicated to Vishnu Alagiamanavalaperumal. This temple was also built by Peria Thiruvadi Chakravarthi in Kollam Andu 967 (1792). Besides there are four churches Protestant and Roman Catholic.The town has a Police station, taluk office, panchayat union office, dispensary and schools. Highways Department also maintains a rest house.

Sambavarvadakarai (Shencottai taluk)

This place is 24 km. away from Shencottai and is well connected by road to Tirunelveli. The main deity in this temple is Mulanathaswami and his consort is Mathuravani.

Sarvabaman,[55] a Pandya king was ruling Tirunelveli. Once this king on his way to Coutrallam went into a nearby forest for hunting. At that time he witnessed a rabit biting his hunting dog which surprised him. He found Virupakshar a sage at a distance worshipping the Swayambu lingam under a Vilva tree. On the advise of sage Virupakshar the king caused the construction of a temple in the place[56]. Subsequently he developed a town in this place called Achiriyapuram. He ruled this place and left Tirunelveli under the control of his son Kalabushan. This temple is said to have been worshipped by Hanuman, Jambavan and Agasthiar. There is a legend that water brought by Hanuman for worship became Hanumannadhi[57]. It is said that Agasthiar and Jambavan wished to conduct Sivapooja here and for that they requested Hanuman to bring water. Hanuman went to western ghats to bring water . Before his arrival with water Agasthiar and Jambavan commenced their worship with the water brought by Agasthiar by use of

his Dhandam. This water became a river called Agasthiar falls. There is a belief that any one dipping in this falls will be cured of any skin disease. At the end of their pooja Hanuman brought the water which ran in between Agasthiar who in the South and Jambavan in the North directions. Agasthiar called Jambavan in the north as Sambavan Vadakarai and from that day this place is called Sambavar vadakarai. The water brought by Hanuman became a river called Hanumannadhi.

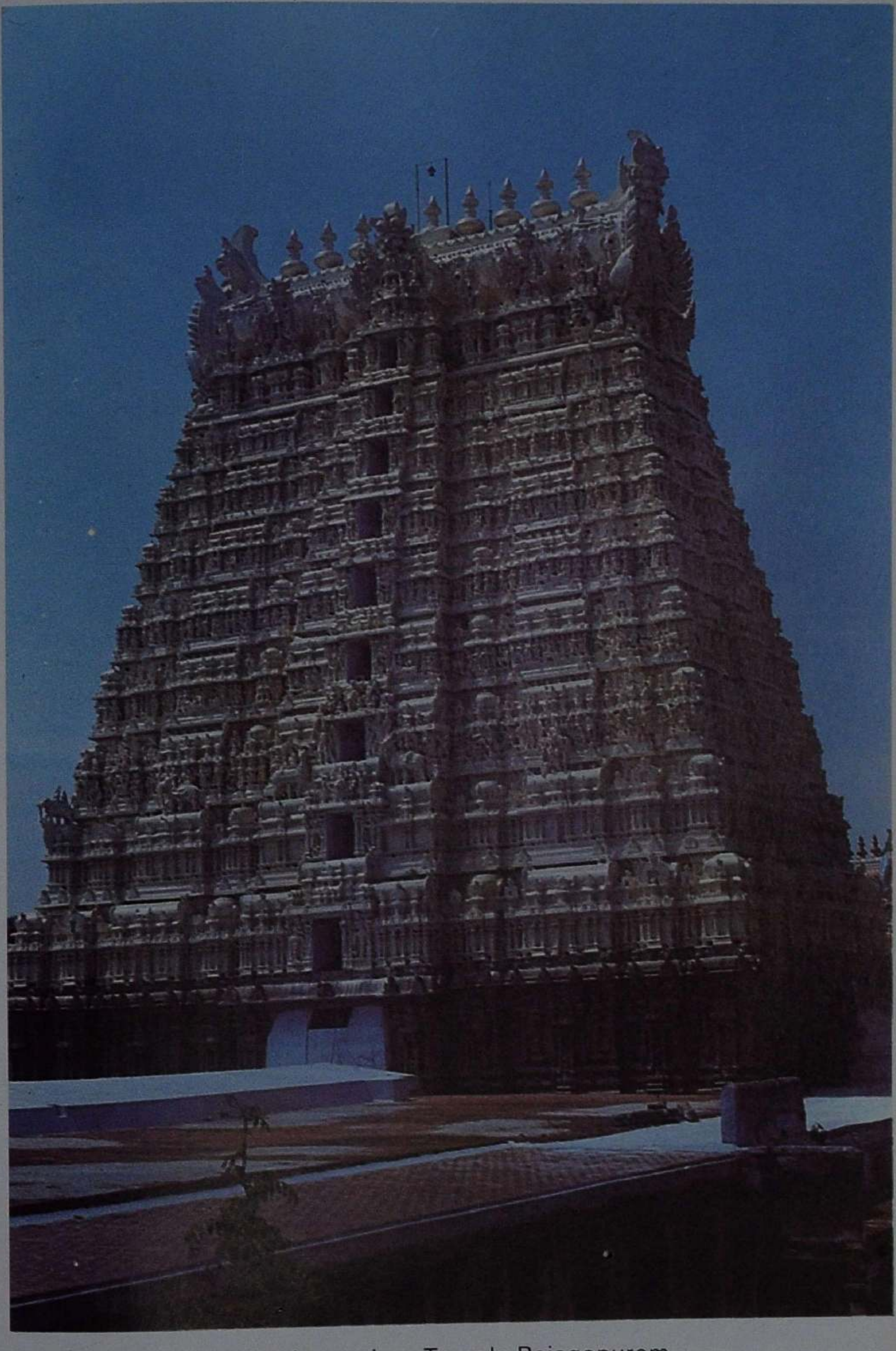
This temple is situated in the midst of beautiful trees and groves. The temple faces east and is surrounded by stone walls. It has a tower, three prakarams and two sactums. This inner walls of the shrine contain interesting stone inscriptioins. To the south of the sanctum of the sacred lingam is the sannadhi of the devine consort Maduravani who is in a standing posture. Six times poojas are performed daily. The Chithra Pournami celebrated for 10 days is the major annual festival of this temple. The Thirukalyana Uthsavam is celebrated for five days in the month of Aipasi(October-November).

Sankaranainarkoil (Sankarankovil taluk)

The Sankaranarayanaswamy temple is situated on Virudhunagar-Tenkasi chord line of the Southern Railway. Sankaranainarkoil, commonly called as Sankarankoil is a town well-knit with Tirunelveli and other parts of the district with good bus facilities. The Lingam in this temple is the personification of *earth.* This temple was built by Ukirapandiar who ruled this area in the early part of the 11th century A.D. It was his daily routine to go to Madurai on elephant's back to worship Lord Somasundarar and Meenakshi. On one particular day his elephant dug a pit with its trunk ,fell and rolled over the earth ,and refused to move further. Manikreevan one of the king's watchmen rushed to him and informed about a Sivalingam and a Cobra coiling it in Punnaiforest.When the king came there to witness this an oracle was heard at that time which instructed the Pandiya king to construct a temple and worship him with atmost devotion which the king obliged. Ugra Pandyan constructed a temple and worshiped the deity.

Later this temple was renovated by Sri Seevalamara Pandyan. The inscriptions in the temple also mentions about various landed gifts made by the Pandya rulers for the maintenance of this temple.The temple is in an area of about four acres and it is surrounded by huge walls on all the four side. The main Gopuram is 125 feet in height and it has nine tiers with beautiful plaster figures. Nine big kalasams each of which is 7 1/2 feet in height, above the top of the gopuram while the sthala tree of the temple is punnai, the theertham is Nagasunai. Nagasunai, the most sacred one is said to have dug by two serpent king Sanken and Padman. There is a belief among the people that the dip in this holy water will cure all the diseases. Similarly the earth from the ant hill is also said to have great medicinal value and cure skin diseases.

This town is proud of being the birth place of the illustrious Tamil Savant Devaneya Paavaanar, who was born on 7 February 1902. His contribution to the Tamil language, literature, lexicography and grammar earned him high accolades and the titles like *Chennai Vidwan, Madurai Pandithar and Nellai Pulavar,* were conferred upon him.



Sankaranainar Temple Rajagopuram

This temple is composed of three shrines.[58] The main deity Sankaralingasamy and His consort is Gomathi Amman have separate sanctums. Sankaralingasamy, a swaymbu linga, called as Vanmikam since He was found in ant hill. The other names by which he is called are Punnaivananathar, Varasi Nadhar, Vaidhyanadhar, Seerasi Nadhar, Koozhaiandi. Sun's rays fall on Sri Sankara lingaswamy at 6.18 a.m. on March 21, 22, 23 and September 21, 22, 23 of every year and Pooja is conducted on these days. Sri Gomathi Amman is also known as Avoodaiyal meaning having cows or protecting cows. Ambal is adorned with gold pavadai angi on all Friday evenings and it is a pleasant sight for devotees. People from all parts of this country used to come to this temple and pray to graceful Goddess with different kinds of requests like relief from diseases, to beget child, to have bumper harvest and for other boons.

Sri Gomathi Ambal did Thapas at this Punnai kshetra and Lord Shiva gave Her darshan as Sankaranarayanaswamy on the Uthirada day in the month of Adi (June-August) and thereby indicating that God Shiva and God Vishnu are same. Further to prove this theory, it is also said that Sankaranarayanasami gave darshan to Sankan and Padman.In front of Goddess Gomathi Amman there is Sri Chakra peetam installed by His Holiness Velappa Desikar, Head of the Thiruvavaduthurai Mutt. It is in practice to make the psychiatric patients, or those suffering from diseases and persons believed to have been haunted by evil spirits, asked to sit on this peetam continuously for 40 days so that they could be cured.

In between Sankaralaingaswamy and Gomathi Ambal sanctum sanctorums we find Sankaranarayanaswamy sanctorum. The image of Sankaranarayanaswamy is a unique example, portraying that Hari and Hara are one and the same. The image of Sankaranarayanaswamy has the symbols of Lord Shiva on right with a cobra around the neck deer, crescent on the head and on left Lord Vishnu with his conch and discus. The idol is one such specimen depicting the skill of the architect.

There are other sub deities in the temple. There is a separate shrine for Lord Muruga and His consorts Valli and Deivayanai. The image of Lord Nataraja the cosmic dancer, in stone is a beautifully carved art piece. There is a spatika Lingam in temple to which all abishegams are offered. In this temple poojas are performed six times daily, festivals are celebrated throughout the year. Among all the festivals Adi Thapasu' celebrated in Adi (July-August) is considered very important. This festival is witnessed by thousands of pilgirims and devotees. Chitra Festival (April-May) and Theppam festival in Thai (January-February) also attract large crowds.

This temple maintains a library containing 1200 books on Hindu religion. It also proivides midday meals to 50 school children. It broadcasts

religious songs on everyday and special Thevara ghosti conducts bhajans accompanied by violin, mirudangam and flute. For the sake of pilgrims pilgrim quarters with 14 rooms and a Rest House with three rooms with modern facilities are maintained[59]. There are 18 other sub temples including the Palvannathaswami temple, Karivalamvandanallur under the management of this Devasthanam.

The Athi Sankara Vinayakar temple is situated in the southern part of this town and it not only adds beauty to this rustic town but attracts several people.On the northern corner of this temple has been built a small temple for Lord Vinayagar under the Kala tree. The Vinayaga has known as Kalavaani Pillaiyar. The story is that the thieves used to assemble under the tree as the place was very remote and chalk out their schemes to commit theft. Hence, the Vinayagar was called Kalavaani Pillaiar by the local residents.

Vinayagar who is installed in the first temple and better known as Arasamarathadi Vinayagar since it is under a peepul tree.It is so believed that the air here medicated by the neem and pipal trees, when inhaled would help the women to attain pregnancy.

Shencottai (Shencottai taluk)

Shencottai is a municipal corporation. The two rivers one in the north called Hariharan river and other in the south called Gandaru which joins in the east and merge with the Chitraru of Coutrallam make this area fertile[60]. The local chieftain hailing from Senkala tribes who ruled this place had no children .For his continuous prayers the God answered through appearance in his dreams and ordered for the construction of the temple for the deity found under a tamarind tree. He was also blessed with the child. Obeying the orders of the Lord the Chieftain constructed the temple in the southern end of the Hariharan for the idol with four arms that he found under the tamarind tree. This is a prominent Vaishnavite shrine in the taluk which occupies an area of about 35 cents.

The beautiful image of the deity in a standing posture is about 5 ft. in height with the sacred conch and discus in the raised hands and the right and left hands in the act of granting refuge and boon to the devotees, the presiding deity presents an inspiring view. The sculptures of Sri Devi and Bhu Devi are found on either side of the Lord[61].

In the Tamil month of Adi (July-August) a big festival takes place in the temple. On Thiruvonam day Arattu festival is celebrated here when the image of the Lord is immersed in the river which is witnessed by lots of devotees.

Seevalaperi Alagar Temple

Sivalapperi (Tirunelveli taluk)

Sivala Mara Pandian constructed a very big tank in this area which was known as Sivalan Aeri which name was in due course corrupted as Sivalapperi. This place is also known as Mukkudal since the three rivers Poronai, Chitrar and Kayathaaru joins together near this place. In the beautiful Viswanathaswami temple we can worship Goddess Visalakshi. In the Tamil month of Panguni (March-April) a grand festival is conducted in this temple which attracts many pilgrims from the surrounding areas. Cattle fare coincides with the grand festival.

Tenkasi (Tenkasi taluk)

Tenkasi means South Banaras is famous for its temple. The story of its temple is narrated in an inscription on a four sided pillar set up in front of the gopuram. It is said that God Viswanatha appeared in the dream of Arikesari Parakrama Pandiyan who was living in the fort constructed by him at Vinthankottai which is in the east of Tenkasi and he frequently visited Banaras to worship Lord Viswanatha, and Lord ordered him to build a new temple at Tenkasi[62]. The king started the work and in 1446 A.D. the central shrine, the ardhamantapam and the mahamantapam were finished and the god was established in this shrine. Ten years later the building of the nine storied gopuram was began and in six years it was completed. In the same year 1463A.D the king died. The temple contains many Pandya inscriptions of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It is believed that if a person dies in Banaras he will attain salvation But if a person born, live and die in Tenkasi he will get salvation was the verdict of many puranas.

An inscription found in one of the pillars in front of this temple states that since the temple in the northern Banaras was destructed by the enemies, this temple was built here. It is also said that the Tenkasi Pandias coronation festivals were celebrated in this temple. In this gopuran there was a facility made to know the time in a day and this was called Nazhigai vattil and the entrance was called Nazhigai vattil vassal.This temple is spread to 318 feet in the south north and 554 feet in east west. In the Mahamandapam we find Lord Ganesha, Kasi Visvanatha and Visalakshi (Ulagammai), Kuthar, Athikaranandhi, Chandrasekar, Pichadanar, Anantha Deva and Pali Nayakar. In Creeper Mandapam we come across champak, jack trees, creepers of many varieties and other plants. We find shrines for Nandhi, Athikaranandhi and Sun gods here. .In the outer mandapam Appar, Thirugnanasampandar, Sundarar, Manickavasagar, 63 Nayanmars, Suradevar, Dhanamurthy, Sapthakannis, Kanni Vinayakar, Saraswathi, Arumugam, Lakshmi, Natarajar, Sivagami, Karaikal Ammaiyar, Chandikeswarar etc. are found.

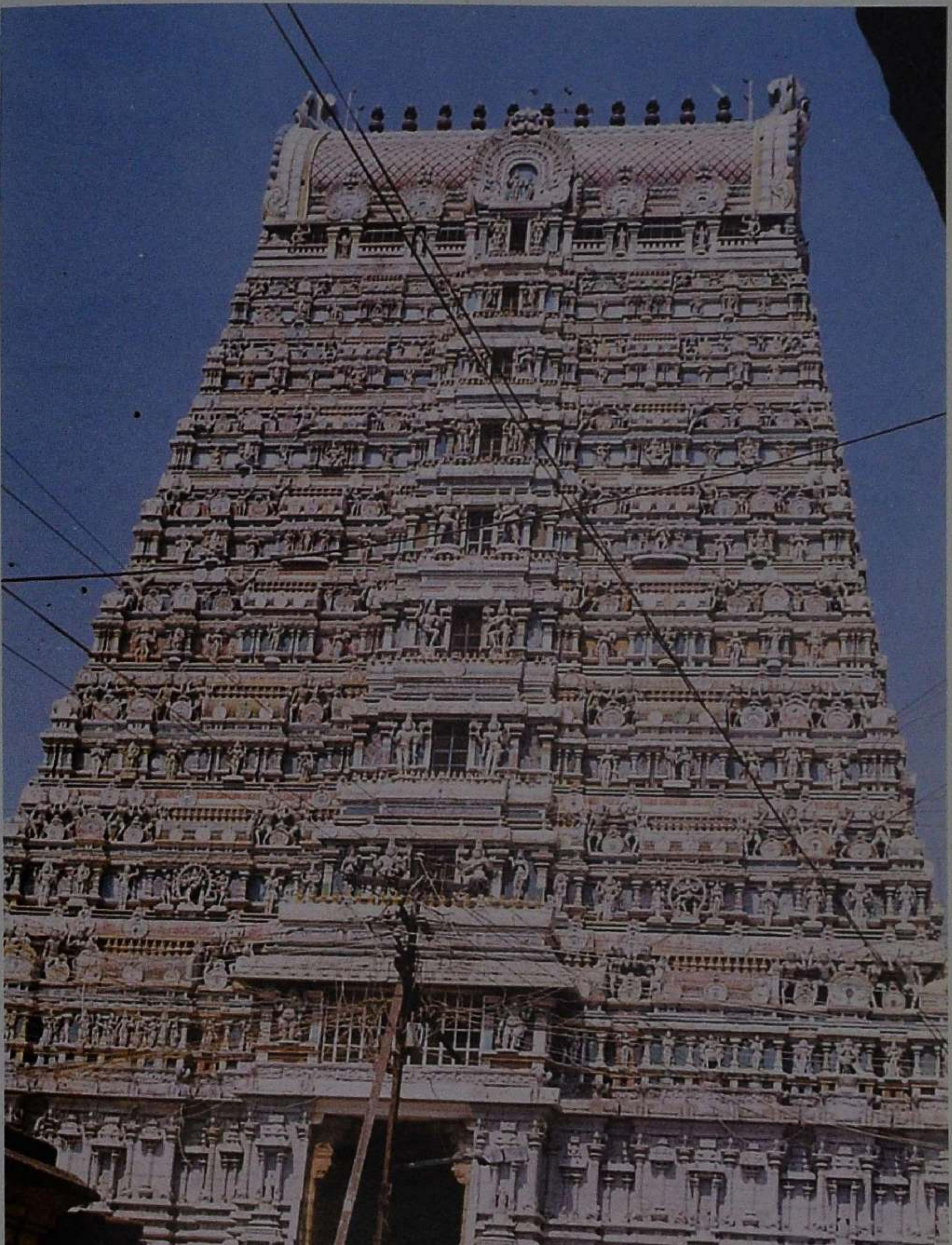
In the outer side of northern direction of the Viswanathaswami sanctum we can come across Meenakshi Chockanathar shrine, Tharani Peedam, Sahasralingam and Bairavar shrines. We find Pallirai Ammaiar in the arthamandabam, Nandi in manimandabam, Valli Devasena Arumugam in mahamandabam and Chandekeswari, flag staff and balipeedam in the balimandabam.

The monolithic sculptures are specimens depicting the masterly skill of the architect. Particularly Agora Veerabathrar, Agni Veerabathrar, Manmathan, Perumal, Bathrakali, Chattainathar, Rathi, Pathanchali, Viyagrapathar. The yali and the panchapandavar statues are carved with intricate designs which one could not dream of chiselling it even in wood. According to puranas Nathamuni , Indra, Agasthiar, Mirukandamunivar Valli and Nandhi had come to this temple and worshipped God Viswanatha and Ullagammai to get redumption from their sins.

This temple is proud of having Sarang, one of the important string musical instruments used for playing before Goddess from evening pooja to night pooja. The two sets of musical pillars found in the central shrine of Viswanatha and of Subramanyar are of notable feature proving the excellence of the artist. These clusters of musical columns produce notes which might have provided the percussion accompaniment for the dancing girls who performed dance as a part of the daily offerings to the deity. The temple has a collection of exquisite bronze which include the image of Parakrama Pandyan the builder of the temple and a very impressive Kankalamurthi idol. They prove that the artists of this region were experts in making icons also.

Many festivals are conducted in this temple in grand manner. In the months of June - July (Ani) Sangabhishekam is celebrated.In July-August (Avani) float festival is conducted and in the month of Purattasi.(September-October) Navarathri festival takes place. Similarly Thirukkalyana festival in Aypasi (October-November)Surasamharam festival and the Pandya kings' great festival in Masi (February-March) are celebrated in grand scale. Thiruvathurai festival in Margali (December-January) is famous here. Thousands of people assemble here in this temple to witness the cosmic dance of Lord Nataraja. During all these festivals Parakkirama Pandia's statute is honoured with poojas and sandle paste is applied to it and even to-day car festival is started by this king alone. This is the only temple where the founder of the temple is always honoured first. Champak is the Sathala Viruksha of this temple.

The gate way of this great temple constructed by the Pandia King Parakramapandia was destroyed by the thunders, probably about 200 years ago. Here we must recall the words of Parakrama Pandia who made a touching appeal for the preservation and the maintenance of the temple,



Kasiviswanathar Temple Rajagopuram, Tenkasi

in case of any natural calamity or due to time. He made a proclamation in which he pays reverential homage to those undertaking the reconstruction and renovation of this temple. This we can find it engraved in chaste Tamil on the walls of temple.

ஆராயினும் இந்தத் தென்காசி மேவும் பொன்னாலயத்து
வாராத தோர் குற்றம் வந்தால் அப்போது அங்கு வந்த அதனை
நேராக வேலொழித் துப்புரப் பார்களை நீதியுடன்
பாரார் அறியப் பணிந்தேன் பராக்கிரம பாண்டியனே.

This reveals his mastery in Tamil literature also.[63]

Tenkasi is the headquarters of the Tenkasi taluk which has a population of 55,044. The major crop cultivated here is paddy. There is a railway station , half kilometre from this town. This town is at a distance of 55 km. from Tirunelveli. connected by frequent bus and train services. Two Government higher secondary schools, two private higher secondary schools, two private high schools, two private middle schools, one Govt. middle school, five elementary schools and two polytechnic institutions are functioning here.

The important temples in this town are Kasi Visawanathaswamy temple, Coutrallanathaswami temple, Ilanji Kumarar temple and Panpoli Thirumalai Kumaraswami temple.

The important offices functioning here are Taluk office, Sub court. Additional sessions court, District Munsif court and Judicial Magistrate court. There is one Warehousing godown. This town has two post offices, one police station, two Co-operative societies and eight banks at the service of the public. There is one travellors bungalow maintained by the Highways Department. Masi festival in Kasiviswanatha temple, Moharam and Ramzan in mosque and Christmas and New year in Churches are celebrated in grand manner.[64]

Tharuvai (Tirunelveli taluk)

Tharuvai a small village situated on the trunk road between Tirunelveli and Ambasamudram in the western direction is 11 km. from Tirunelveli. There is an ancient old Siva temple called ValavallapandisvArarkoil said to be built by sage Agastya. The walls of this temple are abundant with inscriptions of later pandyas, Maravarman-II, Maravarman Kulasekhara-I, and of Jatavarman Virapandya. These inscriptions mostly refer to some donations or gifts of land for conducting offerings and for burning perpetual lamps in the temple.

Thirukkurungudi (Nanguneri taluk)

Thirukkurungudi a village is situated 16 km. from Nanguneri, and about 40 km. from Tirunelveli town. It is found at the feet of the

Mahendragiri peak which remains as a border of Kerala. It is one of the 108 Divyakshetras held sacred by the Vaishnavites. The temple with more magnificient art work is dedicated to Lord Vaishnava Nambi. The presiding deity of this beautiful temple is Ayhagiya Nambi or Kurungudi Nambi. Its sanctum is adored by Panchakethaka Vimana. In puranas we find that this village is described as *Vamana Kshethra* though there is no temple here for Vamana. This temple is a milestone in the history of Pandya architecture and dates back atleast to 700 A.D.

The gopuram of this temple is a huge one with five tiers. The walls of this temple are massive one and there are five spacious prakarams. The temple has two separate sannadies, one for Iruntha Nambi and the other for Kidantha Nambi. The presiding deity is called Azhagiya Nambi or Kurungudi Nambi and is accompanied by His two consorts in a standing posture in sanctum sanctorum. Kurungudivalli Thayar and Andal have special sannadis to them at the first prakara and the sanctum includes both of them alongwith Sridevi, Bhoodevi, Brigu and Markandeya, all by the side of Vaishnava Nambi. Thirumangaiyazhvar attained mukthi here and so there is a separate sannadhi with separate enclosure. Manavala Mamunigal also has separate sannadhi here.

When one entres the temple by the main gate we find a big Mandapam called Sirpa Mandapam. It is really a storehouse of art and architecture. The Gopuram is exquisite beauty and feast to the eyes of the art lovers. This mandapam is adored with 16 pillars which have beautifully carved statues. We can witness *Narasimhars* on both sides of the entrance in various styles describing the sublime episode, of Hiranyavada by Narasimha, which is considered to be one of the important sequence in the Dasavatharam. The technique of comprehension and enlargement in stone with artistry at its height is imprinted in each one of the pillars. This is perhaps the principal achievement of the Thirukkurungudi temple.

The figures of dancer at the Rathi Mandapam, gypsy at the Sirpa Mandapam, a tribal man kidnapping a Rajakumari are all awe inspiring stone icons. These statues are gracefully chiselled with great devotion and are examples for the mastery of the artist.[65]

As per the Vaishna Guruparampara, the Nambi became a disciple of Ramanuja when he visited this place. When the chieftain Maran kari with his wife prayed for a child, Lord Nambi blessed them saying that he would be born to them as their child and that child was called Nammazhwar in the 7th century A.D. Among the 18 Vaishnava centres which are also described as Thiruvadi Desam in pandyanadu, Thirukkurungudi is one among them. There is a Sanctum for Siva within the temple which is a rare feature in a Vaishnavite shrine. The magnificent images found in this temple are the contribution of Naiks and the Vijayanagar rulers. Particularly

Tirukkurungudi Perumal Temple Sculpture

Krishnadevaraya the master builder of the South India contributed a lot to the development of this temple.

Thirumalaiyadi (Tirunlveli taluk)

This village is proud of having a rock cut cave tample. This have a foundation inscription of the 17th regnal year (A.D.670) of the Pandya king Maran Sendan. The rock cut cave attracts some tourists.

Thiruppudaimarudur (Ambasamudram taluk)

Tiruppudaimarudur is situated on the right bank of the Tamiraparani. The temple of Narumbunathaswami that exists in this place brings glory and fame to Thiruppudaimaruthur. The four important styles of temple architecture viz., Pandya, Chera, Chola and Vijayanagara beautify the glorious temple. The Goddess Gomathi Amman shrine in this temple is having great reputation since She is a healer of diseases. Particularly women are more devoted to her. Women possessed with evil spirits used to stay in manimandapam for several days and pray for their cure. Vows are made and when their desires are fulfilled , as a token for their affection, models of infants, parts of the body, cradles, etc. are offered to this Goddess.

The river Tamiraparani skirts the village flows as Uttaravahini (from South to North) and is a confluence of the Kadananadhi river. Tiruppudaimarudur is about six km. north west of Veeravanallur which is about 30 km. from Tirunelveli on the Tirunelveli-Ambasamudram road. It is one of three Arjuna kshetras, where the *marudha* tree is the sthala vriksham. The other two Arjuna kshetras are Mallikarjuna at Srisailam in Karnool district of Andhra Pradesh and Madhyarjunan at Tiruvidaimarudur in Thanjavur district. In front of the gopuram can be found a small house, where according to the local residents, Kanchi Paramacharya had lived for more than six months at the first decade of this century. Mahakumbabishekam took place on April 5, 1995 for the renovated medium size tower which leads to the Mahamandapam, where eight kinds of pillars are found. These are monumental pieces of Pandya, Chola and Vijayanagara architecture.

The ancient temple of Narumpunathar,is dedicated to a Swayambulingam . There are five prakarams including Car Streets and Mada Streets. The third prakaram is surrounded by strong stone walls, the width of which is more than three feet. In the fifth prakara, we can worship the main deities. After crossing the Dwajasthambam if we walk little further we can find the image of Nandhi, Sun God, Sura Devar, the 63 Nayanmars, Agasthyar, Kanni Vinayakar, Dakshinamurthy, Mahavishnu with Goddess Lakshmi, Subramaniar, Chandikeswarar, Saneeswarar, Sahasra lingam, Saraswathi and Nataraja which is about 4.5 feet tall with Goddess Sivakami, Karaikal Ammayar, besides Pathanjali Viyakrapatha all in granites. These are considered as fine pieces of Pandya architectural grandeur.[66]

In the sanctum sanctorum one gets an inspiring view of Lord Narumbunathaswamy and Gomathiambal installed separately. At the Amman sannidhi, we can witness a full length portrait of a Sadhu. It is said that this temple was under his management for a long time. But neither the Thevaram, nor the Tiruvasagam nor any later hymns make a mention of this place. In the inner Gopuram there are images depicting scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharatha. In the tower, eloquent paintings which portrays the Saivite mythology can be seen. These paintings are said to belong to the 16th century.

There are many interesting accounts relating to this temple. Among them, three are frequently mentioned in this area. Davendra wanted to get rid of Brahmahathi Dosha which he got when he committed a sin. On the advice of his preceptor, he came to this place and assuming the form of a Maruda tree performed severe penance to obtain the blessings of the Lord. Indrani, the consort of Indra, who was separated from her husband for long, worshiped the presiding deity of this temple. At last, Siva gave darshan to her from a hole in the tree and also absolved Indra of his sin.

Similarly, Swayambumanu, the son of Brahma came here on the advice of Sage Agasthya after visiting Kasi and other places which have been sanctified by Swayambu lingam. When he came here , he found Lord Siva surrounded by the Goddesses Parvathi , Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Bhu Devi worshiping Him in order to be blessed by Him. Swayambumanu very much disappointed in not getting the darshan of Siva attempted to commit suicide. Immediately, God appeared before him and prevented him from doing so. Manu got the blessings of the God and constructed this temple and made the beautiful stone idol of the Goddess. When one goes to Manimandapam near the Goddess sanctum we can find the image of Swayambumanu there.

The *Anthralam* possessed a fine piece of Mahanadhi leading to the sanctum, here we find the lingam leaning a little to the north. Once a pious devotee Sri Karuvoorthevar, a Saiva saint of the tenth century came to worship Sri Narambunatha swamy along the northern bank of the river which was in spate. He prayed to God to help him cross the river to have the darshan of the Lord. Since he made a sincere plea, the God yielded to him and made the floods subsided, enabling the devotee to cross the river and have darshan of the deity. Here the Lingam at the sanctum leaned to the north to listen to the grievance of this devotee. Narumbunatha means[67] the Lord situated amidst of fragrant flowers.

The temple has inscriptions of early Pandya rulers, Varaguna-Veerapandiyan and Rajendra Chola. In the preamble of the inscription has the word *arulicheyal* instead of the traditional *Sri*. The ten day Thai Poosam festival is celebrated with great pomp and is attended by thousands of

devotees in and around this District[68]. The main occupation of the people of this place is agriculture.

Tirunelveli (Tirunelveli taluk) Santhipillaiar temple

Four streets mainly for the purpose of conducting the carfestival of the Nellaiappar temple, have been laid. The junction where the south car and the west car streets meet, the Sandhipillaiar temple is situated. This junction is the originating and terminating points for several buses which ply to several parts of the district. This Santhipilliar is an ancient one and lots of people of this town worship Pillaiyar in the evening. People worshiping Him with the folded hands is indeed a feast to human eyes., This street is now named after the great freedom fighter V.O.Chidambaram Pillai.[69]

Nellaiapper and Kanthimathi Ambal Temple

The temple of Nellaiapper and Kanthimathi an ancient one is situated in the centre of the town and at a distance of two km. from the Railway station. The very name of the town Tirunelveli which was known in the past as *Then Pandyanagaram* is a part of the town which has developed around the temple of Nellaiyappar. The word Tirunelveli (In the chapter General more details on the place name is available.) meaning the sacred paddy hedge, shows that there was continuous belt of paddy fields and the temple of Nellaiapper was found in the midst.

From the distance itself one can have a beautiful view of the great gopuram tower.As per the Madura manuscript it was Aryanatha Mudaliar the lieutenant of Viswanatha Nayakkan. (A.D.1559-63) solely responsible for the construction of this town. The centre of attraction in this town is the Nellaiappar and Kanthimathi Ambal temple. Both the Gopurams were built according to the rules laid down in the agamasastras by Rama Pandyan. Nindrasir Nedumaran who reigned in the Seventh century A.D also contributed by constructing and renovating important parts in this temple.

Initially the Nellaiapper and Kanthimathi temples were two independent structures with space in between. It was in 1647 A.D that Vadamalaiappa Pillaiyan a great devotee of Siva linked the two temples by building what is known as the *chain* mandapam. This chain mandapam is decorated with the beautiful sculptures of Pachaivadivel, Kasiviswanatha, Hanuman, Arjuna and Bhima. We can witness Kumaran temple to the west of this chain mandapam. Here Skanda Sashti festival is celebrated for six days every year.

A beautiful flower garden originated in 1756 A.D. next to this Chain mandapam welcomes us with many colourful fragant flowers. This garden had been designed by Thiruvengadakrishna mudaliar. A square vasantha mandapam with 100 pillars is found in the midst of this garden.

This vasantha mandapam is proud of having the statues of Lord Siva with water dripping from the head of Sage Agasthya and other sages, which serve as examples for the excellence of workmenship of the architect. Discourses on Saivism and other philosophical talks take place in this mandapam.

In the southern corridor of the Nellaiapper temple we can find the flag staff, the rooms containing the vahanas of the God and Goddess and the rooms where the paddy of the Devasthanam is stored. The pillars in this corridor have beautifully carved structures of the Nayak rulers till the days of Vadamalaiyappa Pillaiyan. On the south west of this corridor is the Thiruppani mandapam where during the Ani Festival the deities would be seated on the 6th and 7th days of the celebration. To the north of this mandapam Arumuganainar temple is situated. The noteworthy feature of this temple is that in a single stone the peacock vahanam, Valli and Deivayanai have been carved out magnificently. It is said that Pillaiyan was mainly responsible for the construction of this temple. The temple elephant is accommodated in the Northern, corridor of the temple. Western corridor possesses one of the beautiful images of Lord Ganesa. The Eastern Corridor is decorated with the most attractive statues of Nandi, Pavalakodi, Alli ,Manmathan, Rathi, Kuravan and Kurathi. In Somavara Mandapam, or Navarathri Mandapam Navarathri festival and Karthigai Somavara festival are celebrated every year. The stone rafters and stone replicas of this mandapam are very intricately designed. The images of Vanniadi Sattanar and Bairavar and a sacrificial altar are found to the west of this mandapam and to the north of this is the Navagrahamandapam.

When we go round the corridors before entering into Swami Nellaiappar temple we can witness the Nandi in front of which stands the big flag staff which was built in 1155 A.D. The sculptures of Virabadra, Arjuna, Karna, God Vinayagar and Lord Murugan create an everlasting impression in the minds of the beholders. In the southern side of Nandi mandapam one can come across the images of Nayanmars, and saint Sekkizhar. It is said that Sivanthappa Nayak is solely responsible for this temple in 1654 A.D. Next to nandhi mandapam, is image of Suryadevar has been installed. The musical pillars that attracts the attention of everyone through their marvel and wonderful music note are in the Manimandapam. Each pillar contains a big pillar in the middle, surrounded by 48 smaller pillars and the entire structure is made out of a single stone. When we bang each pillar with our hand, it produces a musical sound[70]. These clusters of musical pillars are unique and this place is suitable for performing dance. The main purpose of the installation of musical pillars carved out of monolithic reasonant system is to amplify the sound by the bell at the centre of the chamber. The symbolic figure of a temple dancer or devadasi and an announcer with conch standing just behind her de-

Nellaiappar Temple - Tamira Sabha, Tirunelveli

Sculpture of Karnan in Nellaiappar Temple, Tirunelveli
Pagadairaja Sculpture, Nellaiappar Temple, Tirunelveli

picted at the bottom of the cluster of 48 pillars in the southeast corner of the manimandapa and the figure of dancing devadasi provide the evidence to the theory that this cluster of musical pillars has been used as an instrument for playing jatis for dance programme. This manimandapam along with the musical pillar was built by Nindrasir Nedumaran in the 7th century A.D. There is a sanctuary of Venuvananathar in front of the manimandapam. It is in this sanctuary that Lord Venuvananathar blessed Ramakone. In this place there are 21 platforms and these 21 platforms started growing due to the great devotion of Ramakone. Because of this Nellaiappar is also called as Mahalingam or Suyambulingam.[71]

Lord Govinda in reclining posture adore the southern direction of the Suyambulingam. Valampuri Pillaiyar, Chandrasekarar are found at the entrance of the Suyambulingam sanctum and images of Dakshinamoorthy, Lord Siva in the guise of Bikshandar and Chandeswar are found around the sanctum. If one proceeds further he can come across a Lingam at a lower level and this said to be the moola vigraham of this temple. It is also called as Pit Lingam and also as Thirumoolanathar. In the southern corridor of the Venuvanathar temple there are images of the four Saivite Saints, Santhanachariar, Seven Kannikas, 63 Nayanmars, Polla Pillayar and Ravana with Kailasaparvatham in his hands. These statues are really a feast to our eyes.

The Tambara Sabha is said to be one of the five Sabhas of Lord Shiva where he performed his cosmic dance to the delight of devas. Even now during the month of Margali Lord Nataraja dances .This is on Thiruvathirai day and Lord Nataraja's cosmic dance is celebrated here with great pomp. Behind the Tambara Shaba is the Sandal paste Sabapathi and to the west of it is the image of the Saivite devotee Muluthukonda Ramakone.

The Northen corridor is proud of having the images of Ashtalakshmi, Saturn, Sahasra Lingam and the temple of Lord Nataraja. This Nartaraja statue is the bigest one in Tamil Nadu. It is said that He danced to fulfill the desire of his devotee Karaikkal Ammaiyar who wanted to witness His dance.

In the eastern corridor which is in the outside of Swami Nellaippar temple, we can witness Kuberalingam and Sailappar. It is interesting to note that in the eastern corridor a small temple built for Kanthimathi Ambal by a Muslim named Anwar Mauphizkhan who was the Commander-in-chief of the Nawab of the Carnatic. Once this Commander -in-chief's wife was suffering from a serious ailment and on praying to Goddess Kanthimathi Ambal, she was relieved of the ailment. As a mark of gratitude, he built a temple to this Goddess which is popularly known as Anwarnathan after Anwar Mauphizkhan.

The extent of this temple is above 850 ft. in length and 756 feet in breath. The Kanthimathi Ambal temple is also built here more or less to the same extent and both are adorned at their entrances by Gopurams. As soon as one enters the Ambal Temple from the road one is struck with the beautiful unjal mandapam with its mosaic flooring and many pillars explaining the saivite philosophic concept. Besides conducting religious discourses and teaching kolattam to girls, teaching of Tirumurai to devotees also take place in this mandapam. Unjal festival which is celebrated here after the Tirukkalyanam of Swami Nellaiappar and Kanthimathiambal in the month of Aipasi and hence this mandapam is called *Unjal mandapam'* Beautifully adorned Kanthimathi Ambal gives dharsan to millions of Her devotees during laksha deepam and bhadradeepam festivals from this mandapam only. This mandapam was a gift from Serakulam Piraviperumal Pillaiyan a staunch devotee and philanthropist who built the Thaipoosa mandapam in the Tamiraparani river near Sulochana Mudaliar bridge. To the north of unjal mandapam we find the sacred tank with a flight of steps on its four sides. This temple has another tank called Karuman tank.

Another beautiful structure of this Ambal temple is the Tirukkalyana mandapam (marriage hall) which is 520 feet in length and 63 feet in width, where the Thirukkalyanam of Swami and Ambal in the month of Aipasi and the Sengol festival on Panguni Uttaram take place every year.

[72]This temple can boast of having a number of stone inscriptions. The most important of them are those of Veerapandyan who reigned about 950 A.D. and those of Rajendran-I and Kulothunga Chola. From the Chola inscriptions, it could be discerned that Tirunelveli was part of the Chola Empire. The inscriptions of Maravarma Sundara Pandyan refer to the Lord of our temple as *Woodayar* and Wodeyanayanar and the Goddess as *Nachiar*. These inscriptions reveal that Kulasekara Pandian defeated the Chera, Chola and Hoysala kings and out of the war booty he built the outer walls of the temple.

Thirugnana Sambandar had versified this temple. Six pujas are conducted daily in this temple. Monthly prothosham is celebrated in a befitting manner in this temple . Apart from this Adipuram festival in July-August, Brahmaursavam in Aavani (August and September) Navarathiri festival (September-October) Aipasi Thirukkalyanam (October-November) Kanthar shasti, Markali Thiruvathirai Thaipoosa festival and Bathira Deepa festival in the month of January are celebrated in a grand manner in this temple.[73]

Besides conducting religious discourses, Thevara classes are conducted regularly and 75 girls are taught to sing Thevaram. The Devasthanam maintains a library in the Soundara sabha which possess 2000 rare books. It also runs an orphanage and a girls higher secondary school and an elementary school at Palayamkottai.

Apart from Swamy Nellaiappar and Kanthimathi Ambal temple, this town is enriched with other temples like Kariamanicka Perumal temple, Mahil Vannaperumal temple, Narasingaperumal temple, Thodar Nainar temple, Puttaharathi Ammal temple, Ramar temple, Krishnan temple, Vagaiadi Amman temple, Uchinimakali Amman temple and Santhivinayagar temple in Tirunelveli town, Salaikumarasamy temple, Chockanatharsamy temple and Rajagopalasamy temple in Tirunelveli junction Varadarajaperumal temple at C.N.village, Tirunelveli junction, Sri Subramaniaswamy temple, Kurukkuthurai Tirunelveli junction and a Jain temple, Mohammad Nainar Pallivasal at Pettai and Jamma Mosque at Tirunelveli.town are other important worship places for Mohammadans and the Christian Missionary Service church at Tirunelveli town is an important worship place for christians. Almost all these places of worship are small and of recent development.

Taluk office, Tirunelveli District Registrar office, Joint Sub-Registrar office. Deputy Commercial tax office, Industries Sales office, District Educational office, District Educational office for Elementary Education, Sub Registrar office Pettai, Office of the Assistant Inspector General (Regional) Office of the Income Tax, Additional Sub-Treasury ,Tirunelveli Junction and at town are functioning in Tirunelveli.Seventeen municipal elementary schools, two municipal middle schools, one municipal high school and two Higher Secondary schools besides two Government high schools function here. These are supplemented by the 31 private schools in imparting education to the people of the locality. There is one Government Arts college,Pettai, M.D.T. (Private) college, at Pettai, Sankar Polytechnic institute at Sankarnagar are functioning here.

There is one Head Post office functioning from Tirunelveli junction and there are 11 Sub post offices situated in different parts of this town meeting the postal requirements of the people. Twenty one branches of various banks help the people of this town in their financial transactions. Several lodges and hotels are located at Tirunelveli town and Tirunelveli junction as well. Three co-operative societies are functioning here for the benefit of the people. Police stations are situated one each at Tirunelveli junction, town and Pettai. A vegetable market is functioning in Tirunelveli and a whole sale market has been opened at Thatchanallur. The main occupation of the people of the district is agriculture. The important crops grown are Paddy and the river Tamiraparani is the main stay for the life of the people here.The Tirunelveli town has been upgraded as a Corporation which has a population of 42,406. This town is well connected with other places through a well knit commuication systems.[74]

Uvari (Radhapuram taluk)

Uvari a smal fishing town with 3200people is situated 40 km. away from Nanguneri in the south east direction and it is 70 km away from

Tirunelveli town[75]. Buses are plying from Tirunelveli to Uvari The people here are mostly engaged in fishing and in the .export of fishes to other parts of our country. In the, Biblical literature this place is described as *ophir*. Here we find the famous St.Xavier church a few meters away from the seashore and *Kapal Matha* church on the seashore itself. It is said that the St.Xavier church belongs to 16th century A.D. It was, to begin with, a thatched shed where people used to congregate for worship. As the time passed by on seeing the increasing population Fr. Rayappar started constructing a beautiful church in 1908. In 1917, when the new church reached the finishing stage, an unexpected calamity that took place caused the collapse of the roof of this church . Many conflicts and disturbances that took place between the rival groups and between people of Uvari and its neighbourhood caused some unpleasantness but later subsided to bring back normalcy in Uvari. With missionary zeal coupled with untiring efforts, Father Antony Bernard succeeded in completing the construction of this Church on 26 January 1929. Decorated with beautiful ornamental colour glasses, this church is very spacious.[76]

A beautiful gaby for Mother Mary as desired by the people of this town, was constructed and opened on 28 February 1954, mainly due to the initiative taken by A.S.Bernard who could collect sufficient amount through donations. Pastor priest Bubalarayar with the help of skilled masons constructed this gaby. Now when we go to Uvari we can pray Mother Lurdhu Mary in this gaby which is surrounded by beautiful green garden. Many festivals are celebrated in honour of the Mother.[77]

Another small church for St.Mary which was under the control of pastors of Goa mission existed here. In course of time, in 1903, this church was converted into a school. On important occasions as per the wishes of the people, festivals were conducted and prayers were offered to her. There was a custom among the young maidens to go to the nunnery in the night and sleep there. On one such occasion they saw a bright light surrounding this Selvamatha statue even though nobody lit a candle. Many people of Uvari witnessed this light which was there for over an hour. This incident occurred on 18th September 1919. After this incident this day 18th September is celebrated as a great festival. People used to keep this statue in a chariot and come around this town to bestow the blessing of Mary to the people of Uvari. Due to sea erosion this old church got damaged. Therefore the people decided to construct a new church for which the foundation stone was laid down by Fr.Thomas in 1970, 25th January and was finished on 1974.[78] This church, designed as a ship, is called Kappal Matha church after its design. It is a beautiful church facing the blue sea. The waves rolling near this church gives us an impression that this ship shaped church is sailing on the sea which is really a feast to our eyes.[79]

Kappal Matha Temple, Uvari

Rock Cut Cave, Murugan Temple, Vallioor

There was no mention about St.Antony's Church in the 18th century records. So it is assumed that it was of later construction. The present Chruch is constructed in 1846 and this Church is held with great reverence by the catholics. This is a beautiful old Church situated on the sea coast. Every Tuesday lots of sick people pray here to get rid of their sickness.

The most important thing about this church is the annual feast of St.Antony which falls on the third Sunday before Ash Wednesday and this quite often coincides with the Thai Poosam festival of the Hindus (January-February) . This festival is celebrated for thirteen days and the flag hoisting takes place on the first day. On the 12th and the 13th days of the feast more than 50,000 people assemble here to seek the blessings of St.Antony. This feast is conducted in a most pious way and so there is no facilities for entertainment or for marry making. There is a Siva temple in this fishing town. It is an old temple with Suyambulingam. On Thiruvathirai day and on Maha Sivarathiri day local people used to throng this temple.

Valliyoor (Nanguneri taluk)

Valliyoor is on the Banaras cape Comorin National Highways 62 km to the south of Tirunelveli. The place got its name from the temple where Sri Valli's wedding took place. The beautiful shrine of Sri Subramaniya is carved out in a hill and in front of the shrine a mantapa has been constructed. There are two teppakulams (Tanks) by the side of the temple. The Teppam festival during December attracts a large crowd of pilgrims. The annual festival in the month of April also attended by thousands of pilgrims carrying Kavadis. Valliyoor is the headquarters of a Panchayat Union. There is a panchayat union office, a post and telegraph office with telephone facilities. A Police station and circle office, the office of Assistant Engineer(Construction and maintenance) of the Madras State Electricity Board and a Deputy Inspector of Schools are all funtioning here. Valiyoor is a busy commercial centre and is connected by bus to Nagercoil and cape Comorin, Tirunelveli, Radhapuram, Thisayanvilai and Papanasam. Government Higher Secondary School, several Elementary schools and a Middle school and Primary Health Centre are found here.

The chief produce in Valliyoor and the surrounding areas is plantains. Plantains and leaves are sent from here to Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Tirunelveli and other places.

According to local legends, there was a fort of the Pandya King Kulasekaharaperumal around the Kali temple about two km from here. Remains of pillars have been dug up between the Amman and Siva temples. It seems certain that the place was once the residence of the chieftain. Match sticks are manufactured. Valiyoor is now an important industrial centre, famous for its manufacture of tiles.

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